

**ENGLISH  
STANDARD  
VERSION**

Old Testament  
(Psalms – Malachi)

# Psalms

**1** <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup> for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,

<sup>3</sup> "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

<sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

<sup>6</sup> "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

<sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

**3** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son. O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

<sup>2</sup> many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God. Selah.

<sup>3</sup> But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

<sup>4</sup> I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah.

<sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

<sup>6</sup> I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

<sup>7</sup> Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

<sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Selah.

**4** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David. Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

<sup>2</sup> O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you

love vain words and seek after lies?  
Selah.

<sup>3</sup> But know that the LORD has set apart  
the godly for himself; the LORD hears  
when I call to him.

<sup>4</sup> Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in  
your own hearts on your beds, and be  
silent. Selah.

<sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices, and put your  
trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> There are many who say, "Who will  
show us some good? Lift up the light of  
your face upon us, O LORD!"

<sup>7</sup> You have put more joy in my heart  
than they have when their grain and  
wine abound.

<sup>8</sup> In peace I will both lie down and  
sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me  
dwell in safety.

**5** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: for the flutes.  
A Psalm of David. Give ear to my  
words, O LORD; consider my groaning.

<sup>2</sup> Give attention to the sound of my cry,  
my King and my God, for to you do I pray.

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, in the morning you hear  
my voice; in the morning I prepare a  
sacrifice for you and watch.

<sup>4</sup> For you are not a God who delights in  
wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

<sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before  
your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

<sup>6</sup> You destroy those who speak lies;  
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and  
deceitful man.

<sup>7</sup> But I, through the abundance of your  
steadfast love, will enter your house. I  
will bow down toward your holy temple  
in the fear of you.

<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your  
righteousness because of my enemies;  
make your way straight before me.

<sup>9</sup> For there is no truth in their mouth;  
their inmost self is destruction; their

throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.

<sup>10</sup> Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you.

<sup>11</sup> But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

<sup>12</sup> For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

**6** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments; according to The Sheminith. A Psalm of David. O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

<sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.

<sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD--how long?

<sup>4</sup> Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

<sup>5</sup> For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

<sup>6</sup> I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.

<sup>7</sup> My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

<sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer.

<sup>10</sup> All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

**7**<sup>1</sup> A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning the words of Cush, a Benjaminite. O LORD my God,

in you do I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and deliver me,

<sup>2</sup> lest like a lion they tear my soul apart, rending it in pieces, with none to deliver.

<sup>3</sup> O LORD my God, if I have done this, if there is wrong in my hands,

<sup>4</sup> if I have repaid my friend with evil or plundered my enemy without cause,

<sup>5</sup> let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it, and let him trample my life to the ground and lay my glory in the dust. Selah.

<sup>6</sup> Arise, O LORD, in your anger; lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies; awake for me; you have appointed a judgment.

<sup>7</sup> Let the assembly of the peoples be gathered about you; over it return on high.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD judges the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my

righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.

<sup>9</sup> Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous-- you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!

<sup>10</sup> My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.

<sup>11</sup> God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

<sup>12</sup> If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow;

<sup>13</sup> he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.

<sup>14</sup> Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies.

<sup>15</sup> He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made.

<sup>16</sup> His mischief returns upon his own head, and on his own skull his violence descends.

<sup>17</sup> I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

**8** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**9**<sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Muth-labben. A Psalm of David. I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

<sup>2</sup> I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

<sup>3</sup> When my enemies turn back,  
they stumble and perish before your  
presence.

<sup>4</sup> For you have maintained my just  
cause; you have sat on the throne, giving  
righteous judgment.

<sup>5</sup> You have rebuked the nations; you  
have made the wicked perish; you have  
blotted out their name forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> The enemy came to an end in  
everlasting ruins; their cities you rooted  
out; the very memory of them has  
perished.

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD sits enthroned forever;  
he has established his throne for justice,

<sup>8</sup> and he judges the world with  
righteousness; he judges the peoples  
with uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is a stronghold for the  
oppressed, a stronghold in times of  
trouble.

<sup>10</sup> And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

<sup>11</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds!

<sup>12</sup> For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

<sup>13</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD! See my affliction from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the gates of death,

<sup>14</sup> that I may recount all your praises, that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>15</sup> The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid their own foot has been caught.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. Higgsaion. Selah.

<sup>17</sup> The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.

<sup>18</sup> For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

<sup>19</sup> Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you!

<sup>20</sup> Put them in fear, O LORD! Let the nations know that they are but men! Selah.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Why, O LORD, do you stand afar off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

<sup>2</sup> In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

<sup>3</sup> For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God."

<sup>5</sup> His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

<sup>6</sup> He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved; throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."

<sup>7</sup> His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

<sup>8</sup> He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent. His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

<sup>9</sup> he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; he lurks that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.

<sup>10</sup> The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.

<sup>11</sup> He says in his heart, "God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it."

<sup>12</sup> Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

<sup>13</sup> Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?

<sup>14</sup> But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless.

<sup>15</sup> Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.

<sup>17</sup> O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear

<sup>18</sup> to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

**11** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. Of David. In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain,

<sup>2</sup> for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;

<sup>3</sup> if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

<sup>4</sup> The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test, the children of man.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.

<sup>6</sup> Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

**12** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to The Sheminith. A Psalm of David. Save, O LORD, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man.

<sup>2</sup> Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak.

<sup>3</sup> May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts,

<sup>4</sup> those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?"

<sup>5</sup> "Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise," says the LORD; "I will place him in the safety for which he longs."

<sup>6</sup> The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

<sup>7</sup> You, O LORD, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever.

<sup>8</sup> On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among the children of man.

**13** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

<sup>2</sup> How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

<sup>3</sup> Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

<sup>4</sup> lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

<sup>5</sup> But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>6</sup> I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

**14** <sup>1</sup>To the choirmaster. Of David.  
The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

<sup>3</sup>They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

<sup>4</sup>Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?

<sup>5</sup>There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.

<sup>7</sup>Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD

restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**15** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;

<sup>3</sup> who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

<sup>4</sup> in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

<sup>5</sup> who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

**16** <sup>1</sup> A Miktam of David. Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

<sup>3</sup> As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup> The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

<sup>7</sup> I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

<sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

<sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**17** <sup>1</sup> A Prayer of David. Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!

<sup>2</sup> From your presence let my vindication come! Let your eyes behold the right!

<sup>3</sup> You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me, and you will find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.

<sup>4</sup> With regard to the works of man, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

<sup>5</sup> My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

<sup>6</sup> I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words.

<sup>7</sup> Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

<sup>8</sup> Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,

<sup>9</sup> from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me.

<sup>10</sup> They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly.

<sup>11</sup> They have now surrounded our steps; they set their eyes to cast us to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> He is like a lion eager to tear, as a young lion lurking in ambush.

<sup>13</sup> Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword,

<sup>14</sup> from men by your hand, O LORD, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants.

<sup>15</sup> As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

**18** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in

whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup> I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

<sup>4</sup> The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me;

<sup>5</sup> the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

<sup>6</sup> In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

<sup>7</sup> Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry.

<sup>8</sup> Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him.

<sup>9</sup> He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet.

<sup>10</sup> He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.

<sup>11</sup> He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him, thick clouds dark with water.

<sup>12</sup> Out of the brightness before him hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice, hailstones and coals of fire.

<sup>14</sup> And he sent out his arrows and scattered them; he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.

<sup>15</sup> Then the channels of the sea were seen, and the foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

<sup>16</sup> He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters.

<sup>17</sup> He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

<sup>18</sup> They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support.

<sup>19</sup> He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.

<sup>21</sup> For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

<sup>22</sup> For all his rules were before me, and his statutes I did not put away from me.

<sup>23</sup> I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from my guilt.

<sup>24</sup> So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

<sup>25</sup> With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;

<sup>26</sup> with the purified you show yourself pure; and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.

<sup>27</sup> For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.

<sup>28</sup> For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

<sup>29</sup> For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.

<sup>30</sup> This God--his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

<sup>31</sup> For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?--

<sup>32</sup> the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless.

<sup>33</sup> He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights.

<sup>34</sup> He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

<sup>35</sup> You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great.

<sup>36</sup> You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip.

<sup>37</sup> I pursued my enemies and overtook them, and did not turn back till they were consumed.

<sup>38</sup> I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise; they fell under my feet.

<sup>39</sup> For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me.

<sup>40</sup> You made my enemies turn their backs to me, and those who hated me I destroyed.

<sup>41</sup> They cried for help, but there was none to save; they cried to the LORD, but he did not answer them.

<sup>42</sup> I beat them fine as dust before the wind; I cast them out like the mire of the streets.

<sup>43</sup> You delivered me from strife with the people; you made me the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me.

<sup>44</sup> As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me; foreigners came cringing to me.

<sup>45</sup> Foreigners lost heart and came trembling out of their fortresses.

<sup>46</sup> The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation--

<sup>47</sup> the God who gave me vengeance and subdued peoples under me,

<sup>48</sup> who delivered me from my enemies; yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me; you rescued me from the man of violence.

<sup>49</sup> For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing to your name.

<sup>50</sup> Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.

**19** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**20** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

<sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

<sup>3</sup> May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah.

<sup>4</sup> May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!

<sup>5</sup> May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!

<sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.

<sup>7</sup> Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

<sup>8</sup> They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

**21** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. O LORD, in your strength the king rejoices, and in your salvation how greatly he exults!

<sup>2</sup> You have given him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah.

<sup>3</sup> For you meet him with rich blessings; you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

<sup>4</sup> He asked life of you; you gave it to him, length of days forever and ever.

<sup>5</sup> His glory is great through your salvation; splendor and majesty you bestow on him.

<sup>6</sup> For you make him most blessed forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

<sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the LORD, and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

<sup>8</sup> Your hand will find out all your enemies; your right hand will find out those who hate you.

<sup>9</sup> You will make them as a blazing oven when you appear. The LORD will

swallow them up in his wrath, and fire will consume them.

<sup>10</sup> You will destroy their descendants from the earth, and their offspring from among the children of man.

<sup>11</sup> Though they plan evil against you, though they devise mischief, they will not succeed.

<sup>12</sup> For you will put them to flight; you will aim at their faces with your bows.

<sup>13</sup> Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength! We will sing and praise your power.

**22** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

<sup>8</sup> "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

<sup>9</sup> Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

<sup>10</sup> On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup> Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

<sup>12</sup> Many bulls encompass me; strong  
bulls of Bashan surround me;

<sup>13</sup> they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my  
bones are out of joint; my heart is like  
wax; it is melted within my breast;

<sup>15</sup> my strength is dried up like a  
potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my  
jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup> For dogs encompass me; a company  
of evildoers encircles me; they have  
pierced my hands and feet--

<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones-- they stare  
and gloat over me;

<sup>18</sup> they divide my garments among  
them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

<sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O  
you my help, come quickly to my aid!

<sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword, my  
precious life from the power of the dog!

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
You have rescued me from the horns of  
the wild oxen!

<sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will  
praise you:

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring  
of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted, and he has  
not hidden his face from him, but has  
heard, when he cried to him.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the  
great congregation; my vows I will  
perform before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> The afflicted shall eat and be  
satisfied; those who seek him shall  
praise the LORD! May your hearts live  
forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

<sup>28</sup> For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

<sup>30</sup> Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

<sup>31</sup> they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

**23** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**24** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

<sup>2</sup> for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

<sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

<sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

<sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah.

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah.

**25** <sup>1</sup> Of David. To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup> Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup> All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

<sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

<sup>13</sup> His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.

<sup>14</sup> The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

<sup>15</sup> My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

<sup>17</sup> The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses.

<sup>18</sup> Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

<sup>19</sup> Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.

<sup>20</sup> Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

<sup>21</sup> May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

<sup>22</sup> Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

**26** <sup>1</sup> Of David. Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

<sup>2</sup> Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

<sup>4</sup> I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

<sup>5</sup> I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup> I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,

<sup>7</sup> proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

<sup>8</sup> O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

<sup>9</sup> Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

<sup>10</sup> in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

<sup>11</sup> But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

<sup>12</sup> My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

**27** <sup>1</sup> Of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I

fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup> For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

<sup>12</sup> Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

**28** <sup>1</sup> Of David. To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

<sup>2</sup> Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

<sup>3</sup> Do not drag me off with the wicked, with the workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts.

<sup>4</sup> Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.

<sup>5</sup> Because they do not regard the works of the LORD or the work of his hands, he

will tear them down and build them up no more.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD! for he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

<sup>9</sup> Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

**29** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

**30** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the temple. I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

<sup>2</sup> O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

<sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

<sup>7</sup> By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

<sup>8</sup> To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

<sup>9</sup> "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

<sup>11</sup> You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

<sup>12</sup> that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

**31** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

<sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

<sup>3</sup> For you are my rock and my fortress;  
and for your name's sake you lead me  
and guide me;

<sup>4</sup> you take me out of the net they have  
hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup> Into your hand I commit my spirit; you  
have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful  
God.

<sup>6</sup> I hate those who pay regard to  
worthless idols, but I trust in the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> I will rejoice and be glad in your  
steadfast love, because you have seen  
my affliction; you have known the  
distress of my soul,

<sup>8</sup> and you have not delivered me into  
the hand of the enemy; you have set my  
feet in a broad place.

<sup>9</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in  
distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my  
soul and my body also.

<sup>10</sup> For my life is spent with sorrow, and  
my years with sighing; my strength fails

because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

<sup>11</sup> Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors, and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

<sup>12</sup> I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

<sup>13</sup> For I hear the whispering of many-- terror on every side!-- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup> But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

<sup>16</sup> Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!

<sup>17</sup> O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently to Sheol.

<sup>18</sup> Let the lying lips be mute, which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.

<sup>19</sup> Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

<sup>20</sup> In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.

<sup>21</sup> Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.

<sup>22</sup> I had said in my alarm, "I am cut off from your sight." But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to you for help.

<sup>23</sup> Love the LORD, all you his saints!  
The LORD preserves the faithful but  
abundantly repays the one who acts in  
pride.

<sup>24</sup> Be strong, and let your heart take  
courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

**32** <sup>1</sup> A Maskil of David. Blessed is  
the one whose transgression is  
forgiven, whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the  
LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose  
spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup> For when I kept silent, my bones  
wasted away through my groaning all  
day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was  
heavy upon me; my strength was dried  
up as by the heat of summer. Selah.

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you, and I  
did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will  
confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.  
Selah.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah.

<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

<sup>9</sup> Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup> Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

**33** <sup>1</sup> Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

<sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

<sup>4</sup> For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

<sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

<sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

<sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

<sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man;

<sup>14</sup> from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth,

<sup>15</sup> he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

<sup>16</sup> The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

<sup>17</sup> The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

<sup>18</sup> Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

<sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

<sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

**34** <sup>1</sup> Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away. I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

<sup>3</sup> Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

<sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup> Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

<sup>9</sup> Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

<sup>10</sup> The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

<sup>11</sup> Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup> Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

<sup>16</sup> The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

<sup>17</sup> When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

<sup>20</sup> He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.

<sup>21</sup> Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

**35** <sup>1</sup> Of David. Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!

<sup>2</sup> Take hold of shield and buckler and rise for my help!

<sup>3</sup> Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, "I am your salvation!"

<sup>4</sup> Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed who devise evil against me!

<sup>5</sup> Let them be like chaff before the wind,  
with the angel of the LORD driving them  
away!

<sup>6</sup> Let their way be dark and slippery,  
with the angel of the LORD pursuing  
them!

<sup>7</sup> For without cause they hid their net  
for me; without cause they dug a pit for  
my life.

<sup>8</sup> Let destruction come upon him when  
he does not know it! And let the net that  
he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it--to  
his destruction!

<sup>9</sup> Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD,  
exulting in his salvation.

<sup>10</sup> All my bones shall say, "O LORD, who  
is like you, delivering the poor from him  
who is too strong for him, the poor and  
needy from him who robs him?"

<sup>11</sup> Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask  
me of things that I do not know.

<sup>12</sup> They repay me evil for good; my soul is bereft.

<sup>13</sup> But I, when they were sick-- I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed on my chest.

<sup>14</sup> I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother; as one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning.

<sup>15</sup> But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered; they gathered together against me; wretches whom I did not know tore at me without ceasing;

<sup>16</sup> like profane mockers at a feast, they gnash at me with their teeth.

<sup>17</sup> How long, O Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions!

<sup>18</sup> I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you.

<sup>19</sup> Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause.

<sup>20</sup> For they do not speak peace, but against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit.

<sup>21</sup> They open wide their mouths against me; they say, "Aha, Aha! our eyes have seen it!"

<sup>22</sup> You have seen, O LORD; be not silent! O Lord, be not far from me!

<sup>23</sup> Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord!

<sup>24</sup> Vindicate me, O LORD, my God, according to your righteousness, and let them not rejoice over me!

<sup>25</sup> Let them not say in their hearts, "Aha, our heart's desire!" Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."

<sup>26</sup> Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether who rejoice at my calamity! Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves against me!

<sup>27</sup> Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!"

<sup>28</sup> Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

**36** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the LORD.

Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.

<sup>2</sup> For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

<sup>3</sup> The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good.

<sup>4</sup> He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil.

<sup>5</sup> Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup> How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

<sup>8</sup> They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

<sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

<sup>10</sup> Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

<sup>11</sup> Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

<sup>12</sup> There the evildoers lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise.

**37** <sup>1</sup> Of David. Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

<sup>2</sup> For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

<sup>6</sup> He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

<sup>9</sup> For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

<sup>10</sup> In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

<sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

<sup>12</sup> The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him,

<sup>13</sup> but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.

<sup>14</sup> The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor

and needy, to slay those whose way is upright;

<sup>15</sup> their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

<sup>16</sup> Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.

<sup>17</sup> For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever;

<sup>19</sup> they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance.

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish--like smoke they vanish away.

<sup>21</sup> The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives;

<sup>22</sup> for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

<sup>23</sup> The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way;

<sup>24</sup> though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.

<sup>25</sup> I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.

<sup>26</sup> He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.

<sup>27</sup> Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever.

<sup>28</sup> For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

<sup>29</sup> The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.

<sup>30</sup> The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

<sup>31</sup> The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

<sup>32</sup> The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.

<sup>33</sup> The LORD will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.

<sup>34</sup> Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

<sup>35</sup> I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree.

<sup>36</sup> But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found.

<sup>37</sup> Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.

<sup>38</sup> But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.

<sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup> The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

**38** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David, for the memorial offering. O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath!

<sup>2</sup> For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.

<sup>3</sup> There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

<sup>4</sup> For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

<sup>5</sup> My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness,

<sup>6</sup> I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.

<sup>7</sup> For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

<sup>8</sup> I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

<sup>9</sup> O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

<sup>10</sup> My heart throbs; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes--it also has gone from me.

<sup>11</sup> My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off.

<sup>12</sup> Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long.

<sup>13</sup> But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear, like a mute man who does not open his mouth.

<sup>14</sup> I have become like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

<sup>15</sup> But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

<sup>16</sup> For I said, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!"

<sup>17</sup> For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever before me.

<sup>18</sup> I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

<sup>19</sup> But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

<sup>20</sup> Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good.

<sup>21</sup> Do not forsake me, O LORD! O my God, be not far from me!

<sup>22</sup> Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

**39** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: to Jeduthun.  
A Psalm of David. I said, "I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence."

<sup>2</sup> I was mute and silent; I held my peace to no avail, and my distress grew worse.

<sup>3</sup> My heart became hot within me. As I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:

<sup>4</sup> "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

<sup>5</sup> Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah.

<sup>6</sup> Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;

man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

<sup>7</sup> "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

<sup>8</sup> Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

<sup>9</sup> I am mute; I do not open my mouth, for it is you who have done it.

<sup>10</sup> Remove your stroke from me; I am spent by the hostility of your hand.

<sup>11</sup> When you discipline a man with rebukes for sin, you consume like a moth what is dear to him; surely all mankind is a mere breath! Selah.

<sup>12</sup> "Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

<sup>13</sup> Look away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more!"

**40** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the

LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

<sup>5</sup> You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

<sup>9</sup> I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

<sup>10</sup> I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

<sup>11</sup> As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

<sup>12</sup> For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they

are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

<sup>13</sup> Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!

<sup>14</sup> Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt!

<sup>15</sup> Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

<sup>16</sup> But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

<sup>17</sup> As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

**41** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Blessed is the one who

considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

<sup>2</sup> the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.

<sup>4</sup> As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"

<sup>5</sup> My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

<sup>6</sup> And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

<sup>7</sup> All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

<sup>8</sup> They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."

<sup>9</sup> Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

<sup>10</sup> But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

<sup>11</sup> By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

<sup>12</sup> But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.

<sup>13</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

**42** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

<sup>4</sup> These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.

<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation

<sup>6</sup> and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

<sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.

<sup>8</sup> By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

<sup>10</sup> As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

<sup>11</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

**43** <sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

<sup>2</sup> For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

<sup>3</sup> Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

<sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

**44** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

<sup>2</sup> you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you

afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;

<sup>3</sup> for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.

<sup>4</sup> You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob!

<sup>5</sup> Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down those who rise up against us.

<sup>6</sup> For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.

<sup>7</sup> But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us.

<sup>8</sup> In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. Selah.

<sup>9</sup> But you have rejected us and disgraced us and have not gone out with our armies.

<sup>10</sup> You have made us turn back from the foe, and those who hate us have gotten spoil.

<sup>11</sup> You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations.

<sup>12</sup> You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them.

<sup>13</sup> You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us.

<sup>14</sup> You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup> All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face

<sup>16</sup> at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>17</sup> All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant.

<sup>18</sup> Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way;

<sup>19</sup> yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death.

<sup>20</sup> If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god,

<sup>21</sup> would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.

<sup>22</sup> Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.

<sup>23</sup> Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!

<sup>24</sup> Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?

<sup>25</sup> For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground.

<sup>26</sup> Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

**45** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah; a love song. My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

<sup>2</sup> You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.

<sup>3</sup> Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty!

<sup>4</sup> In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!

<sup>5</sup> Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you.

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

<sup>7</sup> you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

<sup>8</sup> your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

<sup>9</sup> daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house,

<sup>11</sup> and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him.

<sup>12</sup> The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people.

<sup>13</sup> All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.

<sup>14</sup> In many-colored robes she is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her.

<sup>15</sup> With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.

<sup>16</sup> In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth.

<sup>17</sup> I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

**46** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamo. A Song. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah.

<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters

the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah.

**47** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

<sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

<sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah.

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

<sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm!

<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations; God sits  
on his holy throne.

<sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather as  
the people of the God of Abraham. For  
the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted!

**48** <sup>1</sup> A Song. A Psalm of the Sons  
of Korah. Great is the LORD and  
greatly to be praised in the city of our  
God! His holy mountain,

<sup>2</sup> beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all  
the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north,  
the city of the great King.

<sup>3</sup> Within her citadels God has made  
himself known as a fortress.

<sup>4</sup> For behold, the kings assembled; they  
came on together.

<sup>5</sup> As soon as they saw it, they were  
astounded; they were in panic; they took  
to flight.

<sup>6</sup> Trembling took hold of them there,  
anguish as of a woman in labor.

<sup>7</sup> By the east wind you shattered the  
ships of Tarshish.

<sup>8</sup> As we have heard, so have we seen  
in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the  
city of our God, which God will establish  
forever. Selah.

<sup>9</sup> We have thought on your steadfast  
love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

<sup>10</sup> As your name, O God, so your praise  
reaches to the ends of the earth. Your  
right hand is filled with righteousness.

<sup>11</sup> Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the  
daughters of Judah rejoice because of  
your judgments!

<sup>12</sup> Walk about Zion, go around her,  
number her towers,

<sup>13</sup> consider well her ramparts, go  
through her citadels, that you may tell  
the next generation

<sup>14</sup> that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.

**49** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

<sup>2</sup> both low and high, rich and poor together!

<sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

<sup>4</sup> I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.

<sup>5</sup> Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,

<sup>6</sup> those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

<sup>7</sup> Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,

<sup>8</sup> for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice,

<sup>9</sup> that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

<sup>10</sup> For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others.

<sup>11</sup> Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they called lands by their own names.

<sup>12</sup> Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.

<sup>13</sup> This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; yet after them people approve of their boasts. Selah.

<sup>14</sup> Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

<sup>15</sup> But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah.

<sup>16</sup> Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases.

<sup>17</sup> For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.

<sup>18</sup> For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed, --and though you get praise when you do well for yourself--

<sup>19</sup> his soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light.

<sup>20</sup> Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

**50** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of Asaph. The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

<sup>3</sup> Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

<sup>4</sup> He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

<sup>5</sup> "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

<sup>6</sup> The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! Selah.

<sup>7</sup> "Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup> Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.

<sup>9</sup> I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.

<sup>10</sup> For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

<sup>11</sup> I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

<sup>12</sup> "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

<sup>13</sup> Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup> Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,

<sup>15</sup> and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

<sup>16</sup> But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips?

<sup>17</sup> For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you.

<sup>18</sup> If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.

<sup>19</sup> "You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.

<sup>20</sup> You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son.

<sup>21</sup> These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

<sup>22</sup> "Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!

<sup>23</sup> The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

**51** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my  
sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight, so  
that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the  
inward being, and you teach me wisdom  
in the secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be  
clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter  
than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the  
bones that you have broken rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot  
out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

<sup>19</sup> then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

**52** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, "David has come to the house of Ahimelech." Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

<sup>2</sup> Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

<sup>3</sup> You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

<sup>5</sup> But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah.

<sup>6</sup> The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying,

<sup>7</sup> "See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!"

<sup>8</sup> But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

**53** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath. A Maskil of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.

<sup>2</sup> God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

<sup>3</sup> They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

<sup>4</sup> Have those who work evil no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon God?

<sup>5</sup> There they are, in great terror, where there is no terror! For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you; you put them to shame, for God has rejected them.

<sup>6</sup> Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When God restores the fortunes of his people, Let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**54** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites went and

told Saul, "Is not David hiding among us?" O God, save me, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

<sup>2</sup> O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

<sup>3</sup> For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

<sup>5</sup> He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them.

<sup>6</sup> With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

<sup>7</sup> For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

**55** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David. Give ear to my prayer, O God,

and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!

<sup>2</sup> Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan,

<sup>3</sup> because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me.

<sup>4</sup> My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

<sup>5</sup> Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.

<sup>6</sup> And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;

<sup>7</sup> yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah.

<sup>8</sup> I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest."

<sup>9</sup> Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city.

<sup>10</sup> Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it;

<sup>11</sup> ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace.

<sup>12</sup> For it is not an enemy who taunts me-- then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me-- then I could hide from him.

<sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend.

<sup>14</sup> We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng.

<sup>15</sup> Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.

<sup>16</sup> But I call to God, and the LORD will save me.

<sup>17</sup> Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.

<sup>18</sup> He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me.

<sup>19</sup> God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, Selah, because they do not change and do not fear God.

<sup>20</sup> My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant.

<sup>21</sup> His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.

<sup>22</sup> Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

<sup>23</sup> But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood

and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

**56** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me;

<sup>2</sup> my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.

<sup>3</sup> When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

<sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

<sup>5</sup> All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

<sup>6</sup> They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life.

<sup>7</sup> For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

<sup>8</sup> You have kept count of my tossings;  
put my tears in your bottle. Are they not  
in your book?

<sup>9</sup> Then my enemies will turn back in the  
day when I call. This I know, that God is  
for me.

<sup>10</sup> In God, whose word I praise, in the  
LORD, whose word I praise,

<sup>11</sup> in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?

<sup>12</sup> I must perform my vows to you, O  
God; I will render thank offerings to you.

<sup>13</sup> For you have delivered my soul from  
death, yes, my feet from falling, that I  
may walk before God in the light of life.

**57** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according  
to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam  
of David, when he fled from Saul, in  
the cave. Be merciful to me, O God, be  
merciful to me, for in you my soul takes  
refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will

take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

<sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

<sup>3</sup> He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah. God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

<sup>4</sup> My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts-- the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

<sup>6</sup> They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah.

<sup>7</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!

<sup>8</sup> Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

<sup>9</sup> I will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
among the peoples; I will sing praises to  
you among the nations.

<sup>10</sup> For your steadfast love is great to the  
heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

<sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the  
heavens! Let your glory be over all the  
earth!

**58** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according  
to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam  
of David. Do you indeed decree what  
is right, you gods? Do you judge the  
children of man uprightly?

<sup>2</sup> No, in your hearts you devise wrongs;  
your hands deal out violence on earth.

<sup>3</sup> The wicked are estranged from  
the womb; they go astray from birth,  
speaking lies.

<sup>4</sup> They have venom like the venom of a  
serpent, like the deaf adder that stops  
its ear,

<sup>5</sup> so that it does not hear the voice of charmers or of the cunning enchanter.

<sup>6</sup> O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!

<sup>7</sup> Let them vanish like water that runs away; when he aims his arrows, let them be blunted.

<sup>8</sup> Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime, like the stillborn child who never sees the sun.

<sup>9</sup> Sooner than your pots can feel the heat of thorns, whether green or ablaze, may he sweep them away!

<sup>10</sup> The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth."

**59** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of

David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him. Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me;

<sup>2</sup> deliver me from those who work evil, and save me from bloodthirsty men.

<sup>3</sup> For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me. For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD,

<sup>4</sup> for no fault of mine, they run and make ready. Awake, come to meet me, and see!

<sup>5</sup> You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel. Rouse yourself to punish all the nations; spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. Selah.

<sup>6</sup> Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city.

<sup>7</sup> There they are, bellowing with their mouths with swords in their lips-- for "Who," they think, "will hear us?"

<sup>8</sup> But you, O LORD, laugh at them; you hold all the nations in derision.

<sup>9</sup> O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress.

<sup>10</sup> My God in his steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

<sup>11</sup> Kill them not, lest my people forget; make them totter by your power and bring them down, O Lord, our shield!

<sup>12</sup> For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips, let them be trapped in their pride. For the cursing and lies that they utter,

<sup>13</sup> consume them in wrath; consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah.

<sup>14</sup> Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city.

<sup>15</sup> They wander about for food and growl if they do not get their fill.

<sup>16</sup> But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

<sup>17</sup> O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.

**60** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt. O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us.

<sup>2</sup> You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters.

<sup>3</sup> You have made your people see hard things; you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.

<sup>4</sup> You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow. Selah.

<sup>5</sup> That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

<sup>6</sup> God has spoken in his holiness: "With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Vale of Succoth.

<sup>7</sup> Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter.

<sup>8</sup> Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph."

<sup>9</sup> Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?

<sup>10</sup> Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.

<sup>11</sup> Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man!

<sup>12</sup> With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.

**61** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. Of David. Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

<sup>2</sup> from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,

<sup>3</sup> for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

<sup>4</sup> Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah.

<sup>5</sup> For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

<sup>6</sup> Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!

<sup>7</sup> May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

<sup>8</sup> So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

**62** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David. For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

<sup>2</sup> He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

<sup>3</sup> How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

<sup>4</sup> They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah.

<sup>5</sup> For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

<sup>6</sup> He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

<sup>7</sup> On God rests my salvation and my  
glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

<sup>8</sup> Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him; God is a  
refuge for us. Selah.

<sup>9</sup> Those of low estate are but a breath;  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up; they are  
together lighter than a breath.

<sup>10</sup> Put no trust in extortion; set no vain  
hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set  
not your heart on them.

<sup>11</sup> Once God has spoken; twice have I  
heard this: that power belongs to God,

<sup>12</sup> and that to you, O Lord, belongs  
steadfast love. For you will render to a  
man according to his work.

**63** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David, when he was  
in the wilderness of Judah. O  
God, you are my God; earnestly I seek

you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup> So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

<sup>3</sup> Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

<sup>4</sup> So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

<sup>5</sup> My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

<sup>7</sup> for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

<sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you; <sup>8</sup> your right hand upholds me.

<sup>9</sup> But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth;

<sup>10</sup> they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals.

<sup>11</sup> But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

**64** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy.

<sup>2</sup> Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the throng of evildoers,

<sup>3</sup> who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows,

<sup>4</sup> shooting from ambush at the blameless, shooting at him suddenly and without fear.

<sup>5</sup> They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly, thinking, who can see them?

<sup>6</sup> They search out injustice, saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search." For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep!

<sup>7</sup> But God shoots his arrow at them; they are wounded suddenly.

<sup>8</sup> They are brought to ruin, with their own tongues turned against them; all who see them will wag their heads.

<sup>9</sup> Then all mankind fears; they tell what God has brought about and ponder what he has done.

<sup>10</sup> Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in him! Let all the upright in heart exult!

**65** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song. Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.

<sup>2</sup> O you who hears prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

<sup>3</sup> When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

<sup>5</sup> By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

<sup>6</sup> the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;

<sup>7</sup> who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,

<sup>8</sup> so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

<sup>10</sup> You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

<sup>12</sup> The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

<sup>13</sup> the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

**66** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Song. A Psalm. Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

<sup>2</sup> sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

<sup>3</sup> Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

<sup>4</sup> All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." Selah.

<sup>5</sup> Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

<sup>6</sup> He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him,

<sup>7</sup> who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations-- let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,

<sup>9</sup> who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

<sup>12</sup> you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

<sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you,

<sup>14</sup> that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah.

<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

<sup>17</sup> I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

<sup>19</sup> But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

**67** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah.

<sup>2</sup> that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah.

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

<sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

<sup>7</sup> God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

**68** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song. God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him!

<sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

<sup>3</sup> But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

<sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!

<sup>5</sup> Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup> God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah.

<sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup> Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad; you restored your inheritance as it languished;

<sup>10</sup> your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord gives the word; the women who announce the news are a great host:

<sup>12</sup> "The kings of the armies--they flee, they flee!" The women at home divide the spoil--

<sup>13</sup> though you men lie among the sheepfolds-- the wings of a dove covered with silver, its pinions with shimmering gold.

<sup>14</sup> When the Almighty scatters kings there, let snow fall on Zalmon.

<sup>15</sup> O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan!

<sup>16</sup> Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, yes, where the LORD will dwell forever?

<sup>17</sup> The chariots of God are twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary.

<sup>18</sup> You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.

<sup>19</sup> Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah.

<sup>20</sup> Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

<sup>21</sup> But God will strike the heads of his enemies, the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord said, "I will bring them back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the depths of the sea,

<sup>23</sup> that you may strike your feet in their blood, that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from the foe."

<sup>24</sup> Your procession is seen, O God, the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary--

<sup>25</sup> the singers in front, the musicians last, between them virgins playing tambourines:

<sup>26</sup> "Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O you who are of Israel's fountain!"

<sup>27</sup> There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in their throng, the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.

<sup>28</sup> Summon your power, O God, the power, O God, by which you have worked for us.

<sup>29</sup> Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings shall bear gifts to you.

<sup>30</sup> Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples. Trample underfoot those who lust after tribute; scatter the peoples who delight in war.

<sup>31</sup> Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.

<sup>32</sup> O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord, Selah.

<sup>33</sup> to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

<sup>35</sup> Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel--he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

**69** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. Of David. Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.

<sup>2</sup> I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

<sup>3</sup> I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

<sup>4</sup> More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?

<sup>5</sup> O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.

<sup>6</sup> Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup> I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.

<sup>9</sup> For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

<sup>10</sup> When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.

<sup>11</sup> When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.

<sup>12</sup> I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.

<sup>13</sup> But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

<sup>15</sup> Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me.

<sup>16</sup> Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

<sup>17</sup> Hide not your face from your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.

<sup>18</sup> Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!

<sup>19</sup> You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you.

<sup>20</sup> Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.

<sup>21</sup> They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

<sup>22</sup> Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.

<sup>23</sup> Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually.

<sup>24</sup> Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them.

<sup>25</sup> May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents.

<sup>26</sup> For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.

<sup>27</sup> Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.

<sup>28</sup> Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.

<sup>29</sup> But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!

<sup>30</sup> I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

<sup>31</sup> This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.

<sup>32</sup> When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

<sup>33</sup> For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.

<sup>34</sup> Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

<sup>35</sup> For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it;

<sup>36</sup> the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.

**70** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. Of David, for the memorial offering. Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!

<sup>2</sup> Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt!

<sup>3</sup> Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!"

<sup>4</sup> May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

<sup>5</sup> But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

**71** <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame!

<sup>2</sup> In your righteousness deliver me and  
rescue me; incline your ear to me, and  
save me!

<sup>3</sup> Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I  
may continually come; you have given  
the command to save me, for you are my  
rock and my fortress.

<sup>4</sup> Rescue me, O my God, from the hand  
of the wicked, from the grasp of the  
unjust and cruel man.

<sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are my hope, my  
trust, O LORD, from my youth.

<sup>6</sup> Upon you I have leaned from before  
my birth; you are he who took me  
from my mother's womb. My praise is  
continually of you.

<sup>7</sup> I have been as a portent to many, but  
you are my strong refuge.

<sup>8</sup> My mouth is filled with your praise,  
and with your glory all the day.

<sup>9</sup> Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.

<sup>10</sup> For my enemies speak concerning me; those who watch for my life consult together

<sup>11</sup> and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."

<sup>12</sup> O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!

<sup>13</sup> May my accusers be put to shame and consumed; with scorn and disgrace may they be covered who seek my hurt.

<sup>14</sup> But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.

<sup>15</sup> My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

<sup>16</sup> With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

<sup>17</sup> O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

<sup>18</sup> So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

<sup>19</sup> Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?

<sup>20</sup> You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.

<sup>21</sup> You will increase my greatness and comfort me again.

<sup>22</sup> I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing

praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

<sup>23</sup> My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.

<sup>24</sup> And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long, for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.

**72** <sup>1</sup> Of Solomon. Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

<sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

<sup>5</sup> May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

<sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

<sup>8</sup> May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

<sup>9</sup> May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!

<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

<sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

<sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

<sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

<sup>15</sup> Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

<sup>16</sup> May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field!

<sup>17</sup> May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

<sup>18</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

<sup>19</sup> Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

<sup>20</sup> The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

**73** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of Asaph. Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

<sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

<sup>4</sup> For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

<sup>5</sup> They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

<sup>7</sup> Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

<sup>8</sup> They scoff and speak with malice;  
loftily they threaten oppression.

<sup>9</sup> They set their mouths against the  
heavens, and their tongue struts through  
the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore his people turn back to  
them, and find no fault in them.

<sup>11</sup> And they say, "How can God know?  
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

<sup>12</sup> Behold, these are the wicked; always  
at ease, they increase in riches.

<sup>13</sup> All in vain have I kept my heart clean  
and washed my hands in innocence.

<sup>14</sup> For all the day long I have been  
stricken and rebuked every morning.

<sup>15</sup> If I had said, "I will speak thus," I  
would have betrayed the generation of  
your children.

<sup>16</sup> But when I thought how to  
understand this, it seemed to me a  
wearisome task,

<sup>17</sup> until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

<sup>18</sup> Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

<sup>19</sup> How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

<sup>20</sup> Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

<sup>21</sup> When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,

<sup>22</sup> I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

<sup>23</sup> Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

<sup>27</sup> For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

<sup>28</sup> But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

**74** <sup>1</sup> A Maskil of Asaph. O God, why do you cast us off forever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

<sup>2</sup> Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

<sup>3</sup> Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

<sup>4</sup> Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs.

<sup>5</sup> They were like those who swing axes in a forest of trees.

<sup>6</sup> And all its carved wood they broke down with hatchets and hammers.

<sup>7</sup> They set your sanctuary on fire; they profaned the dwelling place of your name, bringing it down to the ground.

<sup>8</sup> They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them"; they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.

<sup>9</sup> We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, and there is none among us who knows how long.

<sup>10</sup> How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever?

<sup>11</sup> Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them!

<sup>12</sup> Yet God my King is from of old,  
working salvation in the midst of the  
earth.

<sup>13</sup> You divided the sea by your might;  
you broke the heads of the sea monsters  
on the waters.

<sup>14</sup> You crushed the heads of Leviathan;  
you gave him as food for the creatures of  
the wilderness.

<sup>15</sup> You split open springs and brooks;  
you dried up ever-flowing streams.

<sup>16</sup> Yours is the day, yours also the night;  
you have established the heavenly lights  
and the sun.

<sup>17</sup> You have fixed all the boundaries of  
the earth; you have made summer and  
winter.

<sup>18</sup> Remember this, O LORD, how the  
enemy scoffs, and a foolish people  
reviles your name.

<sup>19</sup> Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts; do not forget the life of your poor forever.

<sup>20</sup> Have regard for the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.

<sup>21</sup> Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame; let the poor and needy praise your name.

<sup>22</sup> Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day!

<sup>23</sup> Do not forget the clamor of your foes, the uproar of those who rise against you, which goes up continually!

**75** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song. We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.

<sup>2</sup> "At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.

<sup>3</sup> When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn;

<sup>5</sup> do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck."

<sup>6</sup> For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,

<sup>7</sup> but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

<sup>8</sup> For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

<sup>9</sup> But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

<sup>10</sup> All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

**76** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song. In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel.

<sup>2</sup> His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.

<sup>3</sup> There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> Glorious are you, more majestic than the mountains of prey.

<sup>5</sup> The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil; they sank into sleep; all the men of war were unable to use their hands.

<sup>6</sup> At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned.

<sup>7</sup> But you, you are to be feared! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused?

<sup>8</sup> From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still,

<sup>9</sup> when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. Selah.

<sup>10</sup> Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.

<sup>11</sup> Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them; let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared,

<sup>12</sup> who cuts off the spirit of princes, who is to be feared by the kings of the earth.

**77** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph. I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me.

<sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

<sup>3</sup> When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

<sup>5</sup> I consider the days of old, the years long ago.

<sup>6</sup> I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart." Then my spirit made a diligent search:

<sup>7</sup> "Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable?

<sup>8</sup> Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time?

<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah.

<sup>10</sup> Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High."

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup> I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

<sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?

<sup>14</sup> You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup> You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

<sup>16</sup> When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled.

<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side.

<sup>18</sup> The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

<sup>19</sup> Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

<sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

**78** <sup>1</sup> A Maskil of Asaph. Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

<sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

<sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

<sup>5</sup> He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,

<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

<sup>8</sup> and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

<sup>9</sup> The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle.

<sup>10</sup> They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law.

<sup>11</sup> They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.

<sup>12</sup> In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

<sup>13</sup> He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.

<sup>14</sup> In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.

<sup>15</sup> He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

<sup>16</sup> He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

<sup>17</sup> Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.

<sup>18</sup> They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.

<sup>19</sup> They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"

<sup>20</sup> He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?"

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel,

<sup>22</sup> because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.

<sup>23</sup> Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven,

<sup>24</sup> and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.

<sup>25</sup> Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.

<sup>26</sup> He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;

<sup>27</sup> he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;

<sup>28</sup> he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.

<sup>29</sup> And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

<sup>30</sup> But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths,

<sup>31</sup> the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel.

<sup>32</sup> In spite of all this, they still sinned; despite his wonders, they did not believe.

<sup>33</sup> So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror.

<sup>34</sup> When he killed them, they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly.

<sup>35</sup> They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.

<sup>36</sup> But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.

<sup>37</sup> Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant.

<sup>38</sup> Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.

<sup>39</sup> He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again.

<sup>40</sup> How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert!

<sup>41</sup> They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>42</sup> They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe,

<sup>43</sup> when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan.

<sup>44</sup> He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.

<sup>45</sup> He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them.

<sup>46</sup> He gave their crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labor to the locust.

<sup>47</sup> He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost.

<sup>48</sup> He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to thunderbolts.

<sup>49</sup> He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels.

<sup>50</sup> He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague.

<sup>51</sup> He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.

<sup>52</sup> Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

<sup>53</sup> He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

<sup>54</sup> And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won.

<sup>55</sup> He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

<sup>56</sup> Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies,

<sup>57</sup> but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow.

<sup>58</sup> For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols.

<sup>59</sup> When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel.

<sup>60</sup> He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind,

<sup>61</sup> and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe.

<sup>62</sup> He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage.

<sup>63</sup> Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song.

<sup>64</sup> Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.

<sup>65</sup> Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine.

<sup>66</sup> And he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame.

<sup>67</sup> He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,  
<sup>68</sup> but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves.

<sup>69</sup> He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.

<sup>70</sup> He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;

<sup>71</sup> from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.

<sup>72</sup> With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

**79** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

<sup>2</sup> They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for

food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth.

<sup>3</sup> They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.

<sup>4</sup> We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.

<sup>5</sup> How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire?

<sup>6</sup> Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name!

<sup>7</sup> For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.

<sup>8</sup> Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

<sup>9</sup> Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!

<sup>10</sup> Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants be known among the nations before our eyes!

<sup>11</sup> Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die!

<sup>12</sup> Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbors the taunts with which they have taunted you, O Lord!

<sup>13</sup> But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

**80** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Testimony. Of Asaph, a Psalm. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You

who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth.

<sup>2</sup> Before Ephraim and Benjamin and  
Manasseh, stir up your might and come  
to save us!

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; let your face shine,  
that we may be saved!

<sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, how long will  
you be angry with your people's prayers?

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of  
tears and given them tears to drink in  
full measure.

<sup>6</sup> You make us an object of contention  
for our neighbors, and our enemies  
laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; let your  
face shine, that we may be saved!

<sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt; you  
drove out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it; it took  
deep root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.

<sup>11</sup> It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

<sup>12</sup> Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

<sup>13</sup> The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

<sup>14</sup> Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,

<sup>15</sup> the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

<sup>16</sup> They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

<sup>17</sup> But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

<sup>18</sup> Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**81** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. Of Asaph. Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

<sup>2</sup> Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.

<sup>3</sup> Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.

<sup>4</sup> For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a language I had not known:

<sup>6</sup> "I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket.

<sup>7</sup> In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah.

<sup>8</sup> Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

<sup>9</sup> There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god.

<sup>10</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

<sup>11</sup> "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

<sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

<sup>13</sup> Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

<sup>14</sup> I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.

<sup>15</sup> Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever.

<sup>16</sup> But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

**82** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of Asaph. God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

<sup>2</sup> "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah.

<sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

<sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

<sup>5</sup> They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup> I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;

<sup>7</sup> nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince."

<sup>8</sup> Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

**83** <sup>1</sup> A Song. A Psalm of Asaph. O God, do not keep silence; do not hold your peace or be still, O God!

<sup>2</sup> For behold, your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads.

<sup>3</sup> They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your treasured ones.

<sup>4</sup> They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!"

<sup>5</sup> For they conspire with one accord; against you they make a covenant--

<sup>6</sup> the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites,

<sup>7</sup> Gebal and Ammon and Amalek,  
Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

<sup>8</sup> Asshur also has joined them; they are  
the strong arm of the children of Lot.  
Selah.

<sup>9</sup> Do to them as you did to Midian, as to  
Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,

<sup>10</sup> who were destroyed at En-dor, who  
became dung for the ground.

<sup>11</sup> Make their nobles like Oreb and  
Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and  
Zalmunna,

<sup>12</sup> who said, "Let us take possession for  
ourselves of the pastures of God."

<sup>13</sup> O my God, make them like whirling  
dust, like chaff before the wind.

<sup>14</sup> As fire consumes the forest, as the  
flame sets the mountains ablaze,

<sup>15</sup> so may you pursue them with your  
tempest and terrify them with your  
hurricane!

<sup>16</sup> Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek your name, O LORD.

<sup>17</sup> Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace,

<sup>18</sup> that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

**84** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup> As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah.

<sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

<sup>10</sup> For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

**85** <sup>1</sup>To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. Selah.

<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup> Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

**86** <sup>1</sup> A Prayer of David. Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

<sup>2</sup> Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you--you are my God.

<sup>3</sup> Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.

<sup>4</sup> Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

<sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

<sup>6</sup> Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

<sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.

<sup>8</sup> There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

<sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

<sup>10</sup> For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

<sup>12</sup> I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

<sup>13</sup> For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

<sup>14</sup> O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before them.

<sup>15</sup> But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant.

<sup>17</sup> Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

**87** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song. On the holy mount stands the city he founded;

<sup>2</sup> the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon; behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush-- "This one was born there," they say.

<sup>5</sup> And of Zion it shall be said, "This one and that one were born in her"; for the Most High himself will establish her.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD records as he registers the peoples, "This one was born there." Selah.

<sup>7</sup> Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you."

**88** <sup>1</sup> A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite. O LORD, God of my salvation; I cry out day and night before you.

<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry!

<sup>3</sup> For my soul is full of troubles, and my  
life draws near to Sheol.

<sup>4</sup> I am counted among those who go  
down to the pit; I am a man who has no  
strength,

<sup>5</sup> like one set loose among the dead,  
like the slain that lie in the grave, like  
those whom you remember no more,  
for they are cut off from your hand.

<sup>6</sup> You have put me in the depths of the  
pit, in the regions dark and deep.

<sup>7</sup> Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and  
you overwhelm me with all your waves.  
Selah.

<sup>8</sup> You have caused my companions to  
shun me; you have made me a horror  
to them. I am shut in so that I cannot  
escape;

<sup>9</sup> my eye grows dim through sorrow.  
Every day I call upon you, O LORD; I  
spread out my hands to you.

<sup>10</sup> Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Do the departed rise up to praise you?  
Selah.

<sup>11</sup> Is your steadfast love declared in the  
grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

<sup>12</sup> Are your wonders known in the  
darkness, or your righteousness in the  
land of forgetfulness?

<sup>13</sup> But I, O LORD, cry to you; in the  
morning my prayer comes before you.

<sup>14</sup> O LORD, why do you cast my soul  
away? Why do you hide your face from  
me?

<sup>15</sup> Afflicted and close to death from  
my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am  
helpless.

<sup>16</sup> Your wrath has swept over me; your  
dreadful assaults destroy me.

<sup>17</sup> They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together.

<sup>18</sup> You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.

**89** <sup>1</sup> A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup> For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

<sup>3</sup> You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup> "I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah.

<sup>5</sup> Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

<sup>6</sup> For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

<sup>7</sup> a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?

<sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?

<sup>9</sup> You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.

<sup>10</sup> You crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

<sup>11</sup> The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.

<sup>12</sup> The north and the south, you have created them; Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name.

<sup>13</sup> You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand.

<sup>14</sup> Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

<sup>15</sup> Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,

<sup>16</sup> who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

<sup>17</sup> For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

<sup>18</sup> For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>19</sup> Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: "I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

<sup>20</sup> I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him,

<sup>21</sup> so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

<sup>22</sup> The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.

<sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

<sup>25</sup> I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

<sup>26</sup> He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

<sup>27</sup> And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

<sup>28</sup> My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.

<sup>29</sup> I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.

<sup>30</sup> If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules,

<sup>31</sup> if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments,

<sup>32</sup> then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes,

<sup>33</sup> but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness.

<sup>34</sup> I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.

<sup>35</sup> Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.

<sup>36</sup> His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me.

<sup>37</sup> Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies." Selah.

<sup>38</sup> But now you have cast off and rejected; you are full of wrath against your anointed.

<sup>39</sup> You have renounced the covenant with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust.

<sup>40</sup> You have breached all his walls; you have laid his strongholds in ruins.

<sup>41</sup> All who pass by plunder him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors.

<sup>42</sup> You have exalted the right hand of his foes; you have made all his enemies rejoice.

<sup>43</sup> You have also turned back the edge of his sword, and you have not made him stand in battle.

<sup>44</sup> You have made his splendor to cease and cast his throne to the ground.

<sup>45</sup> You have cut short the days of his youth; you have covered him with shame. Selah.

<sup>46</sup> How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire?

<sup>47</sup> Remember how short my time is!  
For what vanity you have created all the  
children of man!

<sup>48</sup> What man can live and never see  
death? Who can deliver his soul from  
the power of Sheol? Selah.

<sup>49</sup> Lord, where is your steadfast love  
of old, which by your faithfulness you  
swore to David?

<sup>50</sup> Remember, O Lord, how your  
servants are mocked, and how I bear  
in my heart the insults of all the many  
nations,

<sup>51</sup> with which your enemies mock,  
O LORD, with which they mock the  
footsteps of your anointed.

<sup>52</sup> Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen  
and Amen.

**90** <sup>1</sup> A Prayer of Moses, the man of  
God. Lord, you have been our  
dwelling place in all generations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

<sup>3</sup> You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup> You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

<sup>6</sup> in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

<sup>7</sup> For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

<sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

<sup>9</sup> For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup> The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup> Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

<sup>13</sup> Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

<sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup> Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

<sup>16</sup> Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

**91** <sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

<sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place-- the Most High, who is my refuge--

<sup>10</sup> no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

<sup>15</sup> When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

**92** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath.  
It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup> to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

<sup>3</sup> to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup> For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

<sup>5</sup> How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

<sup>6</sup> The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:

<sup>7</sup> that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;

<sup>8</sup> but you, O LORD, are on high forever.

<sup>9</sup> For behold, your enemies, O LORD, for behold, your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.

<sup>10</sup> But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.

<sup>11</sup> My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

<sup>12</sup> The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup> They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

<sup>14</sup> They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,

<sup>15</sup> to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

**93** <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

<sup>2</sup> Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.

<sup>3</sup> The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.

<sup>4</sup> Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty!

<sup>5</sup> Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

**94** <sup>1</sup> O LORD, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth!

<sup>2</sup> Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve!

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult?

<sup>4</sup> They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast.

<sup>5</sup> They crush your people, O LORD, and afflict your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless;

<sup>7</sup> and they say, "The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive."

<sup>8</sup> Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be wise?

<sup>9</sup> He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?

<sup>10</sup> He who disciplines the nations, does he not rebuke? He who teaches man knowledge--

<sup>11</sup> the LORD--knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law,

<sup>13</sup> to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked.

<sup>14</sup> For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage;

<sup>15</sup> for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.

<sup>16</sup> Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers?

<sup>17</sup> If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.

<sup>18</sup> When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.

<sup>19</sup> When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

<sup>20</sup> Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute?

<sup>21</sup> They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.

<sup>22</sup> But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.

<sup>23</sup> He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out.

**95** <sup>1</sup> Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup> For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice,

<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

<sup>9</sup> when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

<sup>10</sup> For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways."

<sup>11</sup> Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

**96** <sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

<sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

<sup>13</sup> before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**97** <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

<sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.

<sup>4</sup> His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

<sup>7</sup> All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!

<sup>8</sup> Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup> O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

**98** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm. Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together

<sup>9</sup> before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**99** <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

<sup>4</sup> The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name. They called to the LORD, and he answered them.

<sup>7</sup> In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.

<sup>8</sup> O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

<sup>9</sup> Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

**100** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm for giving thanks.  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**101** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music.

<sup>2</sup> I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house;

<sup>3</sup> I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.

<sup>4</sup> A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil.

<sup>5</sup> Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure.

<sup>6</sup> I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.

<sup>7</sup> No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.

<sup>8</sup> Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.

**102** <sup>1</sup> A Prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the LORD. Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you!

<sup>2</sup> Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress! Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!

<sup>3</sup> For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

<sup>4</sup> My heart is struck down like grass and has withered; I forget to eat my bread.

<sup>5</sup> Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my flesh.

<sup>6</sup> I am like a desert owl of the wilderness, like an owl of the waste places;

<sup>7</sup> I lie awake; I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.

<sup>8</sup> All the day my enemies taunt me; those who deride me use my name for a curse.

<sup>9</sup> For I eat ashes like bread and mingle tears with my drink,

<sup>10</sup> because of your indignation and anger; for you have taken me up and thrown me down.

<sup>11</sup> My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

<sup>12</sup> But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations.

<sup>13</sup> You will arise and have pity on Zion; it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.

<sup>14</sup> For your servants hold her stones dear and have pity on her dust.

<sup>15</sup> Nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.

<sup>16</sup> For the LORD builds up Zion; he appears in his glory;

<sup>17</sup> he regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer.

<sup>18</sup> Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:

<sup>19</sup> that he looked down from his holy height; from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,

<sup>20</sup> to hear the groans of the prisoners,  
to set free those who were doomed to  
die,

<sup>21</sup> that they may declare in Zion the  
name of the LORD, and in Jerusalem his  
praise,

<sup>22</sup> when peoples gather together, and  
kingdoms, to worship the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> He has broken my strength in  
midcourse; he has shortened my days.

<sup>24</sup> "O my God," I say, "take me not  
away in the midst of my days-- you  
whose years endure throughout all  
generations!"

<sup>25</sup> Of old you laid the foundation of the  
earth, and the heavens are the work of  
your hands.

<sup>26</sup> They will perish, but you will remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment. You  
will change them like a robe, and they  
will pass away,

<sup>27</sup> but you are the same, and your years have no end.

<sup>28</sup> The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.

**103** <sup>1</sup> Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

<sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

<sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

<sup>21</sup> Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

<sup>22</sup> Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

**104** <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD my God, you are very

great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

<sup>2</sup> covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

<sup>3</sup> He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind;

<sup>4</sup> he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.

<sup>5</sup> He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.

<sup>6</sup> You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

<sup>7</sup> At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.

<sup>8</sup> The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place that you appointed for them.

<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

<sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills;

<sup>11</sup> they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

<sup>12</sup> Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches.

<sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth

<sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

<sup>16</sup> The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

<sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

<sup>19</sup> He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

<sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep about.

<sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

<sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they steal away and lie down in their dens.

<sup>23</sup> Man goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening.

<sup>24</sup> O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great.

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.

<sup>27</sup> These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

<sup>28</sup> When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

<sup>30</sup> When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works,

<sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35</sup> Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

**105** <sup>1</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

<sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

<sup>4</sup> Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

<sup>6</sup> O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

<sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

<sup>8</sup> He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

<sup>9</sup> the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

<sup>10</sup> which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

<sup>11</sup> saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

<sup>12</sup> When they were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it,

<sup>13</sup> wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,

<sup>14</sup> he allowed no one to oppress them;  
he rebuked kings on their account,  
<sup>15</sup> saying, "Touch not my anointed ones,  
do my prophets no harm!"

<sup>16</sup> When he summoned a famine on the  
land and broke all supply of bread,  
<sup>17</sup> he had sent a man ahead of them,  
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

<sup>18</sup> His feet were hurt with fetters; his  
neck was put in a collar of iron;

<sup>19</sup> until what he had said came to pass,  
the word of the LORD tested him.

<sup>20</sup> The king sent and released him; the  
ruler of the peoples set him free;

<sup>21</sup> he made him lord of his house and  
ruler of all his possessions,

<sup>22</sup> to bind his princes at his pleasure  
and to teach his elders wisdom.

<sup>23</sup> Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob  
sojourned in the land of Ham.

<sup>24</sup> And the LORD made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes.

<sup>25</sup> He turned their hearts to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

<sup>26</sup> He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

<sup>27</sup> They performed his signs among them and miracles in the land of Ham.

<sup>28</sup> He sent darkness, and made the land dark; they did not rebel against his words.

<sup>29</sup> He turned their waters into blood and caused their fish to die.

<sup>30</sup> Their land swarmed with frogs, even in the chambers of their kings.

<sup>31</sup> He spoke, and there came swarms of flies, and gnats throughout their country.

<sup>32</sup> He gave them hail for rain, and fiery lightning bolts through their land.

<sup>33</sup> He struck down their vines and fig trees, and shattered the trees of their country.

<sup>34</sup> He spoke, and the locusts came, young locusts without number,

<sup>35</sup> which devoured all the vegetation in their land and ate up the fruit of their ground.

<sup>36</sup> He struck down all the firstborn in their land, the firstfruits of all their strength.

<sup>37</sup> Then he brought out Israel with silver and gold, and there was none among his tribes who stumbled.

<sup>38</sup> Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

<sup>39</sup> He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

<sup>40</sup> They asked, and he brought quail, and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.

<sup>41</sup> He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

<sup>42</sup> For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

<sup>43</sup> So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

<sup>44</sup> And he gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,

<sup>45</sup> that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

**106** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD, or declare all his praise?

<sup>3</sup> Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!

<sup>4</sup> Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help me when you save them,

<sup>5</sup> that I may look upon the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory with your inheritance.

<sup>6</sup> Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness.

<sup>7</sup> Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the Sea, at the Red Sea.

<sup>8</sup> Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power.

<sup>9</sup> He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert.

<sup>10</sup> So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.

<sup>11</sup> And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left.

<sup>12</sup> Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.

<sup>13</sup> But they soon forgot his works; they did not wait for his counsel.

<sup>14</sup> But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness, and put God to the test in the desert;

<sup>15</sup> he gave them what they asked, but sent a wasting disease among them.

<sup>16</sup> When men in the camp were jealous of Moses and Aaron, the holy one of the LORD,

<sup>17</sup> the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.

<sup>18</sup> Fire also broke out in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

<sup>19</sup> They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a metal image.

<sup>20</sup> They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.

<sup>21</sup> They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,

<sup>22</sup> wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore he said he would destroy them-- had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

<sup>24</sup> Then they despised the pleasant land, having no faith in his promise.

<sup>25</sup> They murmured in their tents, and did not obey the voice of the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them that he would make them fall in the wilderness,

<sup>27</sup> and would make their offspring fall among the nations, scattering them among the lands.

<sup>28</sup> Then they yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices offered to the dead;

<sup>29</sup> they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds, and a plague broke out among them.

<sup>30</sup> Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stayed.

<sup>31</sup> And that was counted to him as righteousness from generation to generation forever.

<sup>32</sup> They angered him at the waters of Meribah, and it went ill with Moses on their account,

<sup>33</sup> for they made his spirit bitter, and he spoke rashly with his lips.

<sup>34</sup> They did not destroy the peoples, as the LORD commanded them,

<sup>35</sup> but they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did.

<sup>36</sup> They served their idols, which became a snare to them.

<sup>37</sup> They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons;

<sup>38</sup> they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood.

<sup>39</sup> Thus they became unclean by their acts, and played the whore in their deeds.

<sup>40</sup> Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he abhorred his heritage;

<sup>41</sup> he gave them into the hand of the nations, so that those who hated them ruled over them.

<sup>42</sup> Their enemies oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their power.

<sup>43</sup> Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes

and were brought low through their iniquity.

<sup>44</sup> Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress, when he heard their cry.

<sup>45</sup> For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>46</sup> He caused them to be pitied by all those who held them captive.

<sup>47</sup> Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

<sup>48</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!  
And let all the people say, "Amen!"  
Praise the LORD!

**107** <sup>1</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble

<sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;

<sup>5</sup> hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

<sup>6</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

<sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

<sup>8</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men!

<sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

<sup>10</sup> Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons,

<sup>11</sup> for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

<sup>12</sup> So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help.

<sup>13</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

<sup>14</sup> He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.

<sup>15</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men!

<sup>16</sup> For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

<sup>17</sup> Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

<sup>18</sup> they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

<sup>19</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

<sup>20</sup> He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

<sup>21</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men!

<sup>22</sup> And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

<sup>23</sup> Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters;

<sup>24</sup> they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep.

<sup>25</sup> For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.

<sup>26</sup> They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight;

<sup>27</sup> they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.

<sup>28</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

<sup>29</sup> He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

<sup>30</sup> Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

<sup>31</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men!

<sup>32</sup> Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

<sup>33</sup> He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,

<sup>34</sup> a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.

<sup>35</sup> He turns a desert into pools of water,  
a parched land into springs of water.

<sup>36</sup> And there he lets the hungry dwell,  
and they establish a city to live in;

<sup>37</sup> they sow fields and plant vineyards  
and get a fruitful yield.

<sup>38</sup> By his blessing they multiply greatly,  
and he does not let their livestock  
diminish.

<sup>39</sup> When they are diminished and  
brought low through oppression, evil,  
and sorrow,

<sup>40</sup> he pours contempt on princes and  
makes them wander in trackless wastes;

<sup>41</sup> but he raises up the needy out of  
affliction and makes their families like  
flocks.

<sup>42</sup> The upright see it and are glad, and  
all wickedness shuts its mouth.

<sup>43</sup> Whoever is wise, let him attend  
to these things; let them consider the  
steadfast love of the LORD.

**108** <sup>1</sup> A Song. A Psalm of David. My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!

<sup>2</sup> Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

<sup>3</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

<sup>4</sup> For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

<sup>6</sup> That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer me!

<sup>7</sup> God has promised in his holiness: "With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Valley of Succoth.

<sup>8</sup> Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my scepter.

<sup>9</sup> Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph."

<sup>10</sup> Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?

<sup>11</sup> Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go out, O God, with our armies.

<sup>12</sup> Oh grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man!

<sup>13</sup> With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.

**109** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Be not silent, O God of my praise!

<sup>2</sup> For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues.

<sup>3</sup> They encircle me with words of hate, and attack me without cause.

<sup>4</sup> In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer.

<sup>5</sup> So they reward me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

<sup>6</sup> Appoint a wicked man against him; let an accuser stand at his right hand.

<sup>7</sup> When he is tried, let him come forth guilty; let his prayer be counted as sin!

<sup>8</sup> May his days be few; may another take his office!

<sup>9</sup> May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow!

<sup>10</sup> May his children wander about and beg, seeking food far from the ruins they inhabit!

<sup>11</sup> May the creditor seize all that he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil!

<sup>12</sup> Let there be none to extend kindness to him, nor any to pity his fatherless children!

<sup>13</sup> May his posterity be cut off; may his name be blotted out in the second generation!

<sup>14</sup> May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out!

<sup>15</sup> Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth!

<sup>16</sup> For he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the brokenhearted, to put them to death.

<sup>17</sup> He loved to curse; let curses come upon him! He did not delight in blessing; may it be far from him!

<sup>18</sup> He clothed himself with cursing as his coat; may it soak into his body like water, like oil into his bones!

<sup>19</sup> May it be like a garment that he wraps around him, like a belt that he puts on every day!

<sup>20</sup> May this be the reward of my accusers from the LORD, of those who speak evil against my life!

<sup>21</sup> But you, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for your name's sake; because your steadfast love is good, deliver me!

<sup>22</sup> For I am poor and needy, and my heart is stricken within me.

<sup>23</sup> I am gone like a shadow at evening; I am shaken off like a locust.

<sup>24</sup> My knees are weak through fasting; my body has become gaunt, with no fat.

<sup>25</sup> I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they wag their heads.

<sup>26</sup> Help me, O LORD my God! Save me according to your steadfast love!

<sup>27</sup> Let them know that this is your hand; you, O LORD, have done it!

<sup>28</sup> Let them curse, but you will bless! They arise and are put to shame, but your servant will be glad!

<sup>29</sup> May my accusers be clothed with dishonor; may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a cloak!

<sup>30</sup> With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD; I will praise him in the midst of the throng.

<sup>31</sup> For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.

**110** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

<sup>2</sup> The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

<sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

<sup>6</sup> He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

<sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

**111** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

<sup>8</sup> they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

**112** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!

<sup>2</sup> His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches are in his house,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> Light dawns in the darkness for the  
upright; he is gracious, merciful, and  
righteous.

<sup>5</sup> It is well with the man who deals  
generously and lends; who conducts his  
affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> For the righteous will never be moved;  
he will be remembered forever.

<sup>7</sup> He is not afraid of bad news; his heart  
is firm, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> His heart is steady; he will not be  
afraid, until he looks in triumph on his  
adversaries.

<sup>9</sup> He has distributed freely; he has given  
to the poor; his righteousness endures  
forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

<sup>10</sup> The wicked man sees it and is angry;  
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;  
the desire of the wicked will perish!

**113** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

<sup>4</sup> The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,

<sup>6</sup> who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

<sup>7</sup> He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

<sup>8</sup> to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

<sup>9</sup> He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

**114** <sup>1</sup> When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

<sup>2</sup> Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

<sup>3</sup> The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

<sup>4</sup> The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

<sup>5</sup> What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

<sup>6</sup> O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

<sup>7</sup> Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

<sup>8</sup> who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

**115** <sup>1</sup> Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

<sup>2</sup> Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

<sup>3</sup> Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

<sup>4</sup> Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

<sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

<sup>6</sup> They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

<sup>7</sup> They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

<sup>8</sup> Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

<sup>9</sup> O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

<sup>10</sup> O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

<sup>11</sup> You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

<sup>13</sup> he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

<sup>14</sup> May the LORD give you increase, you and your children!

<sup>15</sup> May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth!

<sup>16</sup> The heavens are the LORD's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.

<sup>17</sup> The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into silence.

<sup>18</sup> But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

**116** <sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

<sup>5</sup> Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

<sup>7</sup> Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

<sup>8</sup> For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

<sup>9</sup> I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>10</sup> I believed, even when I spoke, "I am greatly afflicted";

<sup>11</sup> I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."

<sup>12</sup> What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

<sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

<sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

<sup>16</sup> O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

**117** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, all nations!  
Extol him, all peoples!

<sup>2</sup> For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

**118** <sup>1</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>5</sup> Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

<sup>10</sup> All nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!

<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!

<sup>12</sup> They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!

<sup>13</sup> I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

**119** <sup>1</sup> Aleph. Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

<sup>3</sup> who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

<sup>4</sup> You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

<sup>5</sup> Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

<sup>6</sup> Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.

<sup>8</sup> I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

<sup>9</sup> Beth. How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

<sup>11</sup> I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

<sup>16</sup> I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

<sup>17</sup> Gimel. Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word.

<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

<sup>19</sup> I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me!

<sup>20</sup> My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times.

<sup>21</sup> You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments.

<sup>22</sup> Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies.

<sup>23</sup> Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.

<sup>24</sup> Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

<sup>25</sup> Daleth. My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!

<sup>26</sup> When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes!

<sup>27</sup> Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

<sup>28</sup> My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!

<sup>29</sup> Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

<sup>30</sup> I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me.

<sup>31</sup> I cling to your testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame!

<sup>32</sup> I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

<sup>33</sup> He. Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup> Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

<sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

<sup>36</sup> Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!

<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

<sup>38</sup> Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.

<sup>39</sup> Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good.

<sup>40</sup> Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

<sup>41</sup> Waw. Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise;

<sup>42</sup> then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word.

<sup>43</sup> And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules.

<sup>44</sup> I will keep your law continually, forever and ever,

<sup>45</sup> and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts.

<sup>46</sup> I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame,

<sup>47</sup> for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.

<sup>48</sup> I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

<sup>49</sup> Zayin. Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.

<sup>50</sup> This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

<sup>51</sup> The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law.

<sup>52</sup> When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O LORD.

<sup>53</sup> Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law.

<sup>54</sup> Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning.

<sup>55</sup> I remember your name in the night, O LORD, and keep your law.

<sup>56</sup> This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts.

<sup>57</sup> Heth. The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

<sup>58</sup> I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

<sup>59</sup> When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies;

<sup>60</sup> I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.

<sup>61</sup> Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

<sup>62</sup> At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules.

<sup>63</sup> I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

<sup>64</sup> The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

<sup>65</sup> Teth. You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word.

<sup>66</sup> Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

<sup>67</sup> Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.

<sup>68</sup> You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

<sup>69</sup> The insolent smear me with lies,  
but with my whole heart I keep your  
precepts;

<sup>70</sup> their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I  
delight in your law.

<sup>71</sup> It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
that I might learn your statutes.

<sup>72</sup> The law of your mouth is better to  
me than thousands of gold and silver  
pieces.

<sup>73</sup> Yodh. Your hands have made and  
fashioned me; give me understanding  
that I may learn your commandments.

<sup>74</sup> Those who fear you shall see me and  
rejoice, because I have hoped in your  
word.

<sup>75</sup> I know, O LORD, that your rules are  
righteous, and that in faithfulness you  
have afflicted me.

<sup>76</sup> Let your steadfast love comfort  
me according to your promise to your  
servant.

<sup>77</sup> Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.

<sup>78</sup> Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me with falsehood; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.

<sup>79</sup> Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies.

<sup>80</sup> May my heart be blameless in your statutes, that I may not be put to shame!

<sup>81</sup> Kaph. My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.

<sup>82</sup> My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

<sup>83</sup> For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes.

<sup>84</sup> How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me?

<sup>85</sup> The insolent have dug pitfalls for me; they do not live according to your law.

<sup>86</sup> All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

<sup>87</sup> They have almost made an end of me on earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts.

<sup>88</sup> In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

<sup>89</sup> Lamedh. Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

<sup>90</sup> Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

<sup>91</sup> By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

<sup>92</sup> If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

<sup>93</sup> I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

<sup>94</sup> I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.

<sup>95</sup> The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies.

<sup>96</sup> I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

<sup>97</sup> Mem. Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

<sup>98</sup> Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.

<sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup> I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup> I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup> Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup> Nun. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup> I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.

<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word!

<sup>108</sup> Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules.

<sup>109</sup> I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup> The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

<sup>111</sup> Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup> I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

<sup>113</sup> Samekh. I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.

114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

115 Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.

116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope!

117 Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!

118 You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain.

119 All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies.

120 My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.

121 Ayin. I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.

122 Give your servant a pledge of good; let not the insolent oppress me.

<sup>123</sup> My eyes long for your salvation and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.

<sup>124</sup> Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes.

<sup>125</sup> I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies!

<sup>126</sup> It is time for the LORD to act, for your law has been broken.

<sup>127</sup> Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.

<sup>128</sup> Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way.

<sup>129</sup> P. Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

<sup>130</sup> The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.

133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

134 Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

135 Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

137 Tsadhe. Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules.

138 You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

139 My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.

<sup>140</sup> Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

<sup>141</sup> I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts.

<sup>142</sup> Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

<sup>143</sup> Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight.

<sup>144</sup> Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

<sup>145</sup> Qoph. With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep your statutes.

<sup>146</sup> I call to you; save me, that I may observe your testimonies.

<sup>147</sup> I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words.

<sup>148</sup> My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise.

<sup>149</sup> Hear my voice according to your steadfast love; O LORD, according to your justice give me life.

<sup>150</sup> They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from your law.

<sup>151</sup> But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true.

<sup>152</sup> Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.

<sup>153</sup> Resh. Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget your law.

<sup>154</sup> Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise!

<sup>155</sup> Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.

<sup>156</sup> Great is your mercy, O LORD; give me life according to your rules.

<sup>157</sup> Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

<sup>158</sup> I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands.

<sup>159</sup> Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love.

<sup>160</sup> The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

<sup>161</sup> Sin and Shin. Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

<sup>162</sup> I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

<sup>163</sup> I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.

<sup>164</sup> Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules.

<sup>165</sup> Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

<sup>166</sup> I hope for your salvation, O LORD,  
and I do your commandments.

<sup>167</sup> My soul keeps your testimonies; I  
love them exceedingly.

<sup>168</sup> I keep your precepts and  
testimonies, for all my ways are  
before you.

<sup>169</sup> Taw. Let my cry come before you, O  
LORD; give me understanding according  
to your word!

<sup>170</sup> Let my plea come before you;  
deliver me according to your word.

<sup>171</sup> My lips will pour forth praise, for  
you teach me your statutes.

<sup>172</sup> My tongue will sing of your word,  
for all your commandments are right.

<sup>173</sup> Let your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.

<sup>174</sup> I long for your salvation, O LORD,  
and your law is my delight.

<sup>175</sup> Let my soul live and praise you, and  
let your rules help me.

<sup>176</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

**120** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.

<sup>2</sup> Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.

<sup>3</sup> What shall be given to you, and what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue?

<sup>4</sup> A warrior's sharp arrows, with glowing coals of the broom tree!

<sup>5</sup> Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

<sup>6</sup> Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.

<sup>7</sup> I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war!

**121** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

**122** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

<sup>2</sup> Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem--built as a city that is bound firmly together,

<sup>4</sup> to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you!

<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"

<sup>8</sup> For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"

<sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

**123** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

<sup>2</sup> Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress,

so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.

<sup>3</sup> Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have  
mercy upon us, for we have had more  
than enough of contempt.

<sup>4</sup> Our soul has had more than enough  
of the scorn of those who are at ease, of  
the contempt of the proud.

**124** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Of David.  
If it had not been the LORD  
who was on our side-- let Israel now  
say--

<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD who was  
on our side when people rose up against  
us,

<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us  
up alive, when their anger was kindled  
against us;

<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us  
away, the torrent would have gone over  
us;

<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone the raging waters.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

**125** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

<sup>2</sup> As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

<sup>3</sup> For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

<sup>4</sup> Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!

<sup>5</sup> But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

**126** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

<sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

<sup>6</sup> He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home

with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

**127** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

<sup>2</sup> It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

<sup>3</sup> Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

**128** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

<sup>2</sup> You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

<sup>3</sup> Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

<sup>6</sup> May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

**129** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. "Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth"-- let Israel now say--

<sup>2</sup> "Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.

<sup>3</sup> The plowers plowed upon my back;  
they made long their furrows."

<sup>4</sup> The LORD is righteous; he has cut the  
cords of the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> May all who hate Zion be put to  
shame and turned backward!

<sup>6</sup> Let them be like the grass on the  
housetops, which withers before it  
grows up,

<sup>7</sup> with which the reaper does not fill his  
hand nor the binder of sheaves his arms,

<sup>8</sup> nor do those who pass by say, "The  
blessing of the LORD be upon you! We  
bless you in the name of the LORD!"

**130** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Out of the  
depths I cry to you, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears  
be attentive to the voice of my pleas for  
mercy!

<sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

<sup>8</sup> And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**131** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Of David.  
O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

<sup>2</sup> But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

<sup>3</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

**132** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents.  
Remember, O LORD, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured,  
<sup>2</sup> how he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,  
<sup>3</sup> "I will not enter my house or get into my bed,  
<sup>4</sup> I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,  
<sup>5</sup> until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."  
<sup>6</sup> Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar.  
<sup>7</sup> "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!"  
<sup>8</sup> Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.  
<sup>9</sup> Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy.

<sup>10</sup> For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

<sup>12</sup> If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne."

<sup>13</sup> For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:

<sup>14</sup> "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

<sup>15</sup> I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

<sup>16</sup> Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.

<sup>17</sup> There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

<sup>18</sup> His enemies I will clothe with shame,  
but on him his crown will shine."

**133** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Of  
David. Behold, how good and  
pleasant it is when brothers dwell in  
unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard, on the  
beard of Aaron, running down on the  
collar of his robes!

<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon, which  
falls on the mountains of Zion! For there  
the LORD has commanded the blessing,  
life forevermore.

**134** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Ascents. Come,  
bless the LORD, all you  
servants of the LORD, who stand by night  
in the house of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Lift up your hands to the holy place  
and bless the LORD!

<sup>3</sup> May the LORD bless you from Zion, he  
who made heaven and earth!

**135** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD,

<sup>2</sup> who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.

<sup>5</sup> For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

<sup>6</sup> Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

<sup>7</sup> He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast;

<sup>9</sup> who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants;

<sup>10</sup> who struck down many nations and killed mighty kings,

<sup>11</sup> Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan,

<sup>12</sup> and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to his people Israel.

<sup>13</sup> Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.

<sup>14</sup> For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.

<sup>15</sup> The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

<sup>16</sup> They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see;

<sup>17</sup> they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths.

<sup>18</sup> Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them!

<sup>19</sup> O house of Israel, bless the LORD! O house of Aaron, bless the LORD!

<sup>20</sup> O house of Levi, bless the LORD! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!

<sup>21</sup> Blessed be the LORD from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!

**136** <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>4</sup> to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>5</sup> to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>6</sup> to him who spread out the earth  
above the waters, for his steadfast love  
endures forever;

<sup>7</sup> to him who made the great lights, for  
his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>8</sup> the sun to rule over the day, for his  
steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to rule over the  
night, for his steadfast love endures  
forever;

<sup>10</sup> to him who struck down the firstborn  
of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures  
forever;

<sup>11</sup> and brought Israel out from among  
them, for his steadfast love endures  
forever;

<sup>12</sup> with a strong hand and an  
outstretched arm, for his steadfast love  
endures forever;

<sup>13</sup> to him who divided the Red Sea  
in two, for his steadfast love endures  
forever;

<sup>14</sup> and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>15</sup> but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>16</sup> to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>17</sup> to him who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>18</sup> and killed mighty kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>19</sup> Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>20</sup> and Og, king of Bashan, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>21</sup> and gave their land as a heritage, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>22</sup> a heritage to Israel his servant, for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>23</sup> It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>24</sup> and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>25</sup> he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>26</sup> Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**137** <sup>1</sup> By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.

<sup>2</sup> On the willows there we hung up our lyres.

<sup>3</sup> For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill!

<sup>6</sup> Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!

<sup>7</sup> Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!"

<sup>8</sup> O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us!

<sup>9</sup> Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!

**138** <sup>1</sup> Of David. I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup> I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

<sup>3</sup> On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

<sup>4</sup> All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

<sup>5</sup> and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

**139** <sup>1</sup> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.

<sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

<sup>19</sup> Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!

<sup>20</sup> They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain!

<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

<sup>22</sup> I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**140** <sup>1</sup>To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men,

<sup>2</sup> who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually.

<sup>3</sup> They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from violent men, who have planned to trip up my feet.

<sup>5</sup> The arrogant have hidden a trap for me, and with cords they have spread a net; beside the way they have set snares for me. Selah.

<sup>6</sup> I say to the LORD, You are my God; give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, O LORD!

<sup>7</sup> O LORD, my Lord, the strength of my salvation, you have covered my head in the day of battle.

<sup>8</sup> Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; do not further their evil plot or they will be exalted! Selah.

<sup>9</sup> As for the head of those who surround me, let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them!

<sup>10</sup> Let burning coals fall upon them! Let them be cast into fire, into miry pits, no more to rise!

<sup>11</sup> Let not the slanderer be established in the land; let evil hunt down the violent man speedily!

<sup>12</sup> I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.

<sup>13</sup> Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

**141** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you!

<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

<sup>3</sup> Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

<sup>4</sup> Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies!

<sup>5</sup> Let a righteous man strike me--it is a kindness; let him rebuke me--it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it. Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.

<sup>6</sup> When their judges are thrown over the cliff, then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.

<sup>7</sup> As when one plows and breaks up the earth, so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

<sup>8</sup> But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!

<sup>9</sup> Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers!

<sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.

**142** <sup>1</sup> A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer. With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

<sup>3</sup> When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

<sup>4</sup> Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

<sup>5</sup> I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

<sup>6</sup> Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

<sup>7</sup> Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

**143** <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

<sup>2</sup> Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

<sup>3</sup> For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he

has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

<sup>5</sup> I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

<sup>6</sup> I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah.

<sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

<sup>9</sup> Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge!

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

<sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

<sup>12</sup> And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.

**144** <sup>1</sup> Of David. Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;

<sup>2</sup> he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him?

<sup>4</sup> Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

<sup>5</sup> Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down! Touch the mountains so that they smoke!

<sup>6</sup> Flash forth the lightning and scatter them; send out your arrows and rout them!

<sup>7</sup> Stretch out your hand from on high; rescue me and deliver me from the many waters, from the hand of foreigners,

<sup>8</sup> whose mouths speak lies and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

<sup>9</sup> I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,

<sup>10</sup> who gives victory to kings, who rescues David his servant from the cruel sword.

<sup>11</sup> Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouths speak lies and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

<sup>12</sup> May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace;

<sup>13</sup> may our granaries be full, providing all kinds of produce; may our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields;

<sup>14</sup> may our cattle be heavy with young, suffering no mishap or failure in bearing; may there be no cry of distress in our streets!

<sup>15</sup> Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall! Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

**145** <sup>1</sup> A Song of Praise. Of David. I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup> They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

<sup>7</sup> They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!

<sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup> to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.]

<sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

<sup>16</sup> You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

<sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**146** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

<sup>4</sup> When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

**147** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!

<sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

<sup>10</sup> His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

<sup>11</sup> but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

<sup>12</sup> Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

<sup>13</sup> For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

<sup>14</sup> He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

<sup>15</sup> He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

<sup>16</sup> He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold?

<sup>18</sup> He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules.

Praise the LORD!

**148** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him,  
all his hosts!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon, praise him,  
all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens, and  
you waters above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the  
LORD! For he commanded and they  
were created.

<sup>6</sup> And he established them forever and  
ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not  
pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you  
great sea creatures and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy  
wind fulfilling his word!

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and  
all cedars!

<sup>10</sup> Beasts and all livestock, creeping  
things and flying birds!

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the  
LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his  
majesty is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his  
people, praise for all his saints, for the  
people of Israel who are near to him.  
Praise the LORD!

**149** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Sing to the  
LORD a new song, his praise in  
the assembly of the godly!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the  
children of Zion rejoice in their King!

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with  
dancing, making melody to him with  
tambourine and lyre!

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD takes pleasure in his  
people; he adorns the humble with  
salvation.

<sup>5</sup> Let the godly exult in glory; let them  
sing for joy on their beds.

<sup>6</sup> Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,

<sup>7</sup> to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples,

<sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron,

<sup>9</sup> to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the LORD!

**150** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

<sup>5</sup> Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise  
the LORD! Praise the LORD!

# Proverbs

**1** <sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,

<sup>3</sup> to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;

<sup>4</sup> to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth--

<sup>5</sup> Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,

<sup>6</sup> to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

<sup>8</sup> Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

<sup>9</sup> for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

<sup>10</sup> My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

<sup>11</sup> If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason;

<sup>12</sup> like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

<sup>13</sup> we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder;

<sup>14</sup> throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"--

<sup>15</sup> my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths,

<sup>16</sup> for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.

<sup>17</sup> For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird,

<sup>18</sup> but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives.

<sup>19</sup> Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice;

<sup>21</sup> at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

<sup>22</sup> "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

<sup>23</sup> If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

<sup>24</sup> Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,

<sup>25</sup> because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,

<sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you,

<sup>27</sup> when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

<sup>28</sup> Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

<sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

<sup>30</sup> would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,

<sup>31</sup> therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.

<sup>32</sup> For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

<sup>33</sup> but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

**2** <sup>1</sup> My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,

<sup>2</sup> making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;

<sup>3</sup> yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,

<sup>4</sup> if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,

<sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

<sup>7</sup> he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

<sup>8</sup> guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;

<sup>10</sup> for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

<sup>11</sup> discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you,

<sup>12</sup> delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech,

<sup>13</sup> who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness,

<sup>14</sup> who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil,

<sup>15</sup> men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

<sup>16</sup> So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words,

<sup>17</sup> who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God;

<sup>18</sup> for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed;

<sup>19</sup> none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.

<sup>20</sup> So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.

<sup>21</sup> For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it,

<sup>22</sup> but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

**3** <sup>1</sup> My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,

<sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your

neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,

<sup>12</sup> for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

<sup>13</sup> Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,

<sup>14</sup> for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.

<sup>15</sup> She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

<sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

<sup>17</sup> Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

<sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;

<sup>20</sup> by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.

<sup>21</sup> My son, do not lose sight of these-- keep sound wisdom and discretion,

<sup>22</sup> and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.

<sup>23</sup> Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.

<sup>24</sup> If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

<sup>25</sup> Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,

<sup>26</sup> for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

<sup>27</sup> Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

<sup>28</sup> Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"--when you have it with you.

<sup>29</sup> Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you.

<sup>30</sup> Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm.

<sup>31</sup> Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways,

<sup>32</sup> for the devious person is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence.

<sup>33</sup> The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

<sup>34</sup> Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

<sup>35</sup> The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

**4** <sup>1</sup> Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,  
and be attentive, that you may gain  
insight,

<sup>2</sup> for I give you good precepts; do not  
forsake my teaching.

<sup>3</sup> When I was a son with my father,  
tender, the only one in the sight of my  
mother,

<sup>4</sup> he taught me and said to me, "Let  
your heart hold fast my words; keep my  
commandments, and live.

<sup>5</sup> Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget,  
and do not turn away from the words of  
my mouth.

<sup>6</sup> Do not forsake her, and she will keep  
you; love her, and she will guard you.

<sup>7</sup> The beginning of wisdom is this: Get  
wisdom, and whatever you get, get  
insight.

<sup>8</sup> Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;  
she will honor you if you embrace her.

<sup>9</sup> She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."

<sup>10</sup> Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many.

<sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness.

<sup>12</sup> When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble.

<sup>13</sup> Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

<sup>14</sup> Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil.

<sup>15</sup> Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.

<sup>16</sup> For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.

<sup>17</sup> For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

<sup>18</sup> But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

<sup>19</sup> The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

<sup>20</sup> My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.

<sup>21</sup> Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart.

<sup>22</sup> For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

<sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

<sup>24</sup> Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.

<sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.

<sup>26</sup> Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.

<sup>27</sup> Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

**5** <sup>1</sup> My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, <sup>2</sup> that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil,

<sup>4</sup> but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

<sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol;

<sup>6</sup> she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

<sup>7</sup> And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth.

<sup>8</sup> Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house,

<sup>9</sup> lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless,

<sup>10</sup> lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,

<sup>11</sup> and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed,

<sup>12</sup> and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof!

<sup>13</sup> I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.

<sup>14</sup> I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation."

<sup>15</sup> Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.

<sup>16</sup> Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets?

<sup>17</sup> Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you.

<sup>18</sup> Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth,

<sup>19</sup> a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

<sup>20</sup> Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

<sup>21</sup> For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.

<sup>22</sup> The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.

<sup>23</sup> He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

**6** <sup>1</sup> My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger,

<sup>2</sup> if you are snared in the words of your mouth, caught in the words of your mouth,

<sup>3</sup> then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into the

hand of your neighbor: go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber;

<sup>5</sup> save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

<sup>6</sup> Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.

<sup>7</sup> Without having any chief, officer, or ruler,

<sup>8</sup> she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

<sup>9</sup> How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

<sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,

<sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

<sup>12</sup> A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech,

<sup>13</sup> winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger,

<sup>14</sup> with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord;

<sup>15</sup> therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

<sup>16</sup> There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:

<sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

<sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,

<sup>19</sup> a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

<sup>20</sup> My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

<sup>21</sup> Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck.

<sup>22</sup> When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

<sup>23</sup> For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

<sup>24</sup> to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

<sup>25</sup> Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;

<sup>26</sup> for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.

<sup>27</sup> Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?

<sup>28</sup> Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?

<sup>29</sup> So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

<sup>30</sup> People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry,

<sup>31</sup> but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house.

<sup>32</sup> He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.

<sup>33</sup> Wounds and dishonor will he get, and his disgrace will not be wiped away.

<sup>34</sup> For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge.

<sup>35</sup> He will accept no compensation; he will refuse though you multiply gifts.

**7**<sup>1</sup> My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you;

<sup>2</sup> keep my commandments and live;  
keep my teaching as the apple of your  
eye;

<sup>3</sup> bind them on your fingers; write them  
on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup> Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"  
and call insight your intimate friend,

<sup>5</sup> to keep you from the forbidden  
woman, from the adulteress with her  
smooth words.

<sup>6</sup> For at the window of my house I have  
looked out through my lattice,

<sup>7</sup> and I have seen among the simple,  
I have perceived among the youths, a  
young man lacking sense,

<sup>8</sup> passing along the street near her  
corner, taking the road to her house

<sup>9</sup> in the twilight, in the evening, at the  
time of night and darkness.

<sup>10</sup> And behold, the woman meets him,  
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.

<sup>11</sup> She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home;

<sup>12</sup> now in the street, now in the market, and at every corner she lies in wait.

<sup>13</sup> She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him,

<sup>14</sup> "I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows;

<sup>15</sup> so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

<sup>16</sup> I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen;

<sup>17</sup> I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

<sup>18</sup> Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love.

<sup>19</sup> For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey;

<sup>20</sup> he took a bag of money with him; at full moon he will come home."

<sup>21</sup> With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him.

<sup>22</sup> All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast

<sup>23</sup> till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life.

<sup>24</sup> And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth.

<sup>25</sup> Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths,

<sup>26</sup> for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng.

<sup>27</sup> Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice?

<sup>2</sup> On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;

<sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:

<sup>4</sup> "To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man.

<sup>5</sup> O simple ones, learn prudence; O fools, learn sense.

<sup>6</sup> Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right,

<sup>7</sup> for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

<sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

<sup>9</sup> They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.

<sup>10</sup> Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold,

<sup>11</sup> for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

<sup>12</sup> "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.

<sup>13</sup> The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

<sup>14</sup> I have counsel and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength.

<sup>15</sup> By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just;

<sup>16</sup> by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly.

<sup>17</sup> I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

<sup>18</sup> Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.

<sup>20</sup> I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice,

<sup>21</sup> granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

<sup>22</sup> "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.

<sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth,

<sup>26</sup> before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.

<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

<sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress  
his command, when he marked out the  
foundations of the earth,

<sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master  
workman, and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,

<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world and  
delighting in the children of man.

<sup>32</sup> "And now, O sons, listen to me:  
blessed are those who keep my ways.

<sup>33</sup> Hear instruction and be wise, and do  
not neglect it.

<sup>34</sup> Blessed is the one who listens to  
me, watching daily at my gates, waiting  
beside my doors.

<sup>35</sup> For whoever finds me finds life and  
obtains favor from the LORD,

<sup>36</sup> but he who fails to find me injures  
himself; all who hate me love death."

**9** <sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house; she  
has hewn her seven pillars.

<sup>2</sup> She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

<sup>3</sup> She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town,

<sup>4</sup> "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says,

<sup>5</sup> "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup> Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

<sup>7</sup> Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.

<sup>8</sup> Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

<sup>9</sup> Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

<sup>11</sup> For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

<sup>12</sup> If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

<sup>13</sup> The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing.

<sup>14</sup> She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town,

<sup>15</sup> calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way,

<sup>16</sup> "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" And to him who lacks sense she says,

<sup>17</sup> "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

<sup>18</sup> But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

**10** <sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

<sup>2</sup> Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

<sup>4</sup> A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

<sup>5</sup> He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

<sup>6</sup> Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

<sup>7</sup> The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

<sup>8</sup> The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

<sup>10</sup> Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

<sup>11</sup> The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

<sup>12</sup> Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

<sup>13</sup> On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

<sup>14</sup> The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

<sup>15</sup> A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin.

<sup>16</sup> The wage of the righteous leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.

<sup>18</sup> The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.

<sup>19</sup> When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

<sup>20</sup> The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

<sup>21</sup> The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.

<sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

<sup>23</sup> Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

<sup>24</sup> What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

<sup>25</sup> When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous is established forever.

<sup>26</sup> Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

<sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.

<sup>28</sup> The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.

<sup>29</sup> The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers.

<sup>30</sup> The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not dwell in the land.

<sup>31</sup> The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off.

<sup>32</sup> The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

**11** <sup>1</sup> A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.

<sup>2</sup> When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

<sup>3</sup> The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

<sup>4</sup> Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

<sup>5</sup> The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.

<sup>6</sup> The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.

<sup>7</sup> When the wicked dies, his hope will perish, and the expectation of wealth perishes too.

<sup>8</sup> The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.

<sup>9</sup> With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

<sup>10</sup> When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.

<sup>11</sup> By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.

<sup>12</sup> Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

<sup>13</sup> Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

<sup>14</sup> Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer harm, but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure.

<sup>16</sup> A gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches.

<sup>17</sup> A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.

<sup>18</sup> The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.

<sup>19</sup> Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.

<sup>20</sup> Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the LORD, but those of blameless ways are his delight.

<sup>21</sup> Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.

<sup>22</sup> Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.

<sup>23</sup> The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath.

<sup>24</sup> One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

<sup>25</sup> Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

<sup>26</sup> The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

<sup>27</sup> Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

<sup>28</sup> Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

<sup>29</sup> Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

<sup>30</sup> The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.

<sup>31</sup> If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

**12** <sup>1</sup> Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

<sup>2</sup> A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of evil devices he condemns.

<sup>3</sup> No one is established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved.

<sup>4</sup> An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.

<sup>5</sup> The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.

<sup>6</sup> The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them.

<sup>7</sup> The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

<sup>8</sup> A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of twisted mind is despised.

<sup>9</sup> Better to be lowly and have a servant than to play the great man and lack bread.

<sup>10</sup> Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.

<sup>11</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

<sup>12</sup> Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit.

<sup>13</sup> An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble.

<sup>14</sup> From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.

<sup>15</sup> The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

<sup>16</sup> The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.

<sup>18</sup> There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

<sup>19</sup> Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

<sup>20</sup> Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy.

<sup>21</sup> No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.

<sup>22</sup> Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

<sup>23</sup> A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly.

<sup>24</sup> The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

<sup>25</sup> Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

<sup>26</sup> One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

<sup>27</sup> Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

<sup>28</sup> In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.

**13** <sup>1</sup> A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

<sup>2</sup> From the fruit of his mouth a man eats what is good, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence.

<sup>3</sup> Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

<sup>4</sup> The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

<sup>5</sup> The righteous hates falsehood, but the wicked brings shame and disgrace.

<sup>6</sup> Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but sin overthrows the wicked.

<sup>7</sup> One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

<sup>8</sup> The ransom of a man's life is his wealth, but a poor man hears no threat.

<sup>9</sup> The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

<sup>10</sup> By insolence comes nothing but strife, but with those who take advice is wisdom.

<sup>11</sup> Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

<sup>12</sup> Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

<sup>13</sup> Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.

<sup>14</sup> The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.

<sup>15</sup> Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin.

<sup>16</sup> In everything the prudent acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly.

<sup>17</sup> A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a faithful envoy brings healing.

<sup>18</sup> Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.

<sup>19</sup> A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools.

<sup>20</sup> Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

<sup>21</sup> Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good.

<sup>22</sup> A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

<sup>23</sup> The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.

<sup>24</sup> Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

<sup>25</sup> The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the belly of the wicked suffers want.

**14** <sup>1</sup> The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

<sup>2</sup> Whoever walks in uprightness fears the LORD, but he who is devious in his ways despises him.

<sup>3</sup> By the mouth of a fool comes a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will preserve them.

<sup>4</sup> Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.

<sup>5</sup> A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies.

<sup>6</sup> A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is easy for a man of understanding.

<sup>7</sup> Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.

<sup>8</sup> The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving.

<sup>9</sup> Fools mock at the guilt offering, but the upright enjoy acceptance.

<sup>10</sup> The heart knows its own bitterness, and no stranger shares its joy.

<sup>11</sup> The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish.

<sup>12</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

<sup>13</sup> Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief.

<sup>14</sup> The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways.

<sup>15</sup> The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.

<sup>16</sup> One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.

<sup>17</sup> A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated.

<sup>18</sup> The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

<sup>19</sup> The evil bow down before the good, the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

<sup>20</sup> The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

<sup>22</sup> Do they not go astray who devise evil? Those who devise good meet steadfast love and faithfulness.

<sup>23</sup> In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

<sup>24</sup> The crown of the wise is their wealth, but the folly of fools brings folly.

<sup>25</sup> A truthful witness saves lives, but one who breathes out lies is deceitful.

<sup>26</sup> In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.

<sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.

<sup>28</sup> In a multitude of people is the glory of a king, but without people a prince is ruined.

<sup>29</sup> Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

<sup>30</sup> A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.

<sup>31</sup> Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

<sup>32</sup> The wicked is overthrown through his evildoing, but the righteous finds refuge in his death.

<sup>33</sup> Wisdom rests in the heart of a man of understanding, but it makes itself known even in the midst of fools.

<sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

<sup>35</sup> A servant who deals wisely has the king's favor, but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.

**15** <sup>1</sup> A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

<sup>2</sup> The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

<sup>3</sup> The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

<sup>4</sup> A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

<sup>5</sup> A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

<sup>6</sup> In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.

<sup>7</sup> The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.

<sup>8</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.

<sup>9</sup> The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves him who pursues righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way; whoever hates reproof will die.

<sup>11</sup> Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD; how much more the hearts of the children of man!

<sup>12</sup> A scoffer does not like to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.

<sup>13</sup> A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

<sup>14</sup> The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

<sup>15</sup> All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.

<sup>16</sup> Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.

<sup>17</sup> Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

<sup>18</sup> A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.

<sup>19</sup> The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

<sup>20</sup> A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

<sup>21</sup> Folly is a joy to him who lacks sense, but a man of understanding walks straight ahead.

<sup>22</sup> Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

<sup>23</sup> To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

<sup>24</sup> The path of life leads upward for the prudent, that he may turn away from Sheol beneath.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD tears down the house of the proud but maintains the widow's boundaries.

<sup>26</sup> The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but gracious words are pure.

<sup>27</sup> Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live.

<sup>28</sup> The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

<sup>29</sup> The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

<sup>30</sup> The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones.

<sup>31</sup> The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

<sup>32</sup> Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.

<sup>33</sup> The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

**16** <sup>1</sup> The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

<sup>3</sup> Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

<sup>5</sup> Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

<sup>6</sup> By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.

<sup>7</sup> When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

<sup>8</sup> Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

<sup>9</sup> The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

<sup>10</sup> An oracle is on the lips of a king; his mouth does not sin in judgment.

<sup>11</sup> A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are his work.

<sup>12</sup> It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.

<sup>14</sup> A king's wrath is a messenger of death, and a wise man will appease it.

<sup>15</sup> In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.

<sup>16</sup> How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

<sup>17</sup> The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way preserves his life.

<sup>18</sup> Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

<sup>19</sup> It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

<sup>20</sup> Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

<sup>22</sup> Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it, but the instruction of fools is folly.

<sup>23</sup> The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

<sup>24</sup> Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

<sup>25</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

<sup>26</sup> A worker's appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.

<sup>27</sup> A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

<sup>28</sup> A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

<sup>29</sup> A man of violence entices his neighbor and leads him in a way that is not good.

<sup>30</sup> Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.

<sup>31</sup> Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

<sup>32</sup> Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

<sup>33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

**17** <sup>1</sup> Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.

<sup>2</sup> A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.

<sup>3</sup> The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.

<sup>4</sup> An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue.

<sup>5</sup> Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

<sup>6</sup> Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.

<sup>7</sup> Fine speech is not becoming to a fool; still less is false speech to a prince.

<sup>8</sup> A bribe is like a magic stone in the eyes of the one who gives it; wherever he turns he prospers.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

<sup>10</sup> A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

<sup>11</sup> An evil man seeks only rebellion, and a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

<sup>12</sup> Let a man meet a she-bear robbed of her cubs rather than a fool in his folly.

<sup>13</sup> If anyone returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.

<sup>14</sup> The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.

<sup>15</sup> He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

<sup>16</sup> Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he has no sense?

<sup>17</sup> A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

<sup>18</sup> One who lacks sense gives a pledge and puts up security in the presence of his neighbor.

<sup>19</sup> Whoever loves transgression loves strife; he who makes his door high seeks destruction.

<sup>20</sup> A man of crooked heart does not discover good, and one with a dishonest tongue falls into calamity.

<sup>21</sup> He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.

<sup>22</sup> A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

<sup>23</sup> The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice.

<sup>24</sup> The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

<sup>25</sup> A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.

<sup>26</sup> To impose a fine on a righteous man is not good, nor to strike the noble for their uprightness.

<sup>27</sup> Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

<sup>28</sup> Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

**18** <sup>1</sup> Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

<sup>2</sup> A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

<sup>3</sup> When wickedness comes, contempt comes also, and with dishonor comes disgrace.

<sup>4</sup> The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

<sup>5</sup> It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice.

<sup>6</sup> A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.

<sup>7</sup> A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

<sup>8</sup> The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

<sup>10</sup> The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

<sup>11</sup> A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.

<sup>12</sup> Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

<sup>13</sup> If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

<sup>14</sup> A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

<sup>15</sup> An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

<sup>16</sup> A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great.

<sup>17</sup> The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.

<sup>18</sup> The lot puts an end to quarrels and decides between powerful contenders.

<sup>19</sup> A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.

<sup>20</sup> From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips.

<sup>21</sup> Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

<sup>22</sup> He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.

<sup>24</sup> A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**19** <sup>1</sup> Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.

<sup>2</sup> Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.

<sup>3</sup> When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.

<sup>5</sup> A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

<sup>6</sup> Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.

<sup>7</sup> All a poor man's brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but does not have them.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever gets sense loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will discover good.

<sup>9</sup> A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.

<sup>10</sup> It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury, much less for a slave to rule over princes.

<sup>11</sup> Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

<sup>12</sup> A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

<sup>13</sup> A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.

<sup>14</sup> House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

<sup>16</sup> Whoever keeps the commandment keeps his life; he who despises his ways will die.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

<sup>18</sup> Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.

<sup>19</sup> A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.

<sup>20</sup> Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

<sup>21</sup> Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

<sup>22</sup> What is desired in a man is steadfast love, and a poor man is better than a liar.

<sup>23</sup> The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.

<sup>24</sup> The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

<sup>25</sup> Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.

<sup>26</sup> He who does violence to his father and chases away his mother is a son who brings shame and reproach.

<sup>27</sup> Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

<sup>28</sup> A worthless witness mocks at justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.

<sup>29</sup> Condemnation is ready for scoffers, and beating for the backs of fools.

**20** <sup>1</sup> Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

<sup>2</sup> The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger forfeits his life.

<sup>3</sup> It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.

<sup>4</sup> The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

<sup>5</sup> The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

<sup>6</sup> Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?

<sup>7</sup> The righteous who walks in his integrity-- blessed are his children after him!

<sup>8</sup> A king who sits on the throne of judgment winnows all evil with his eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"?

<sup>10</sup> Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.

<sup>12</sup> The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.

<sup>13</sup> Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

<sup>14</sup> "Bad, Bad," says the buyer, but when he goes away, then he boasts.

<sup>15</sup> There is gold and abundance of costly stones, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

<sup>16</sup> Take a man's garment when he has put up security for a stranger, and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for foreigners.

<sup>17</sup> Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be full of gravel.

<sup>18</sup> Plans are established by counsel; by wise guidance wage war.

<sup>19</sup> Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babbler.

<sup>20</sup> If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.

<sup>21</sup> An inheritance gained hastily in the beginning will not be blessed in the end.

<sup>22</sup> Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

<sup>23</sup> Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good.

<sup>24</sup> A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?

<sup>25</sup> It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and to reflect only after making vows.

<sup>26</sup> A wise king winnows the wicked and drives the wheel over them.

<sup>27</sup> The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts.

<sup>28</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king, and by steadfast love his throne is upheld.

<sup>29</sup> The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.

<sup>30</sup> Blows that wound cleanse away evil; strokes make clean the innermost parts.

**21** <sup>1</sup> The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

<sup>2</sup> Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.

<sup>3</sup> To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

<sup>4</sup> Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin.

<sup>5</sup> The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

<sup>6</sup> The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.

<sup>7</sup> The violence of the wicked will sweep them away, because they refuse to do what is just.

<sup>8</sup> The way of the guilty is crooked, but the conduct of the pure is upright.

<sup>9</sup> It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

<sup>10</sup> The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.

<sup>11</sup> When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge.

<sup>12</sup> The Righteous One observes the house of the wicked; he throws the wicked down to ruin.

<sup>13</sup> Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.

<sup>14</sup> A gift in secret averts anger, and a concealed bribe, strong wrath.

<sup>15</sup> When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

<sup>16</sup> One who wanders from the way of good sense will rest in the assembly of the dead.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

<sup>18</sup> The wicked is a ransom for the righteous, and the traitor for the upright.

<sup>19</sup> It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.

<sup>20</sup> Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.

<sup>22</sup> A wise man scales the city of the mighty and brings down the stronghold in which they trust.

<sup>23</sup> Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

<sup>24</sup> "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

<sup>25</sup> The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

<sup>26</sup> All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

<sup>27</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent.

<sup>28</sup> A false witness will perish, but the word of a man who hears will endure.

<sup>29</sup> A wicked man puts on a bold face, but the upright gives thought to his ways.

<sup>30</sup> No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD.

<sup>31</sup> The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.

**22** <sup>1</sup> A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

<sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor meet together; the LORD is the maker of them all.

<sup>3</sup> The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

<sup>4</sup> The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

<sup>5</sup> Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked; whoever guards his soul will keep far from them.

<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

<sup>7</sup> The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

<sup>10</sup> Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.

<sup>11</sup> He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.

<sup>12</sup> The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he overthrows the words of the traitor.

<sup>13</sup> The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!"

<sup>14</sup> The mouth of forbidden women is a deep pit; he with whom the LORD is angry will fall into it.

<sup>15</sup> Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

<sup>16</sup> Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

<sup>17</sup> Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge,

<sup>18</sup> for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips.

<sup>19</sup> That your trust may be in the LORD, I have made them known to you today, even to you.

<sup>20</sup> Have I not written for you thirty sayings of counsel and knowledge,

<sup>21</sup> to make you know what is right and true, that you may give a true answer to those who sent you?

<sup>22</sup> Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate,

<sup>23</sup> for the LORD will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.

<sup>24</sup> Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man,

<sup>25</sup> lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

<sup>26</sup> Be not one of those who give pledges, who put up security for debts.

<sup>27</sup> If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you?

<sup>28</sup> Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set.

<sup>29</sup> Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

**23** <sup>1</sup> When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you,

<sup>2</sup> and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite.

<sup>3</sup> Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.

<sup>4</sup> Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.

<sup>5</sup> When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

<sup>6</sup> Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy; do not desire his delicacies,

<sup>7</sup> for he is like one who is inwardly calculating. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

<sup>8</sup> You will vomit up the morsels that you have eaten, and waste your pleasant words.

<sup>9</sup> Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.

<sup>10</sup> Do not move an ancient landmark or enter the fields of the fatherless,

<sup>11</sup> for their Redeemer is strong; he will plead their cause against you.

<sup>12</sup> Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.

<sup>13</sup> Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.

<sup>14</sup> If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.

<sup>15</sup> My son, if your heart is wise, my heart too will be glad.

<sup>16</sup> My inmost being will exult when your lips speak what is right.

<sup>17</sup> Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.

<sup>18</sup> Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

<sup>19</sup> Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way.

<sup>20</sup> Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat,

<sup>21</sup> for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.

<sup>22</sup> Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

<sup>23</sup> Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

<sup>24</sup> The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.

<sup>25</sup> Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

<sup>26</sup> My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

<sup>27</sup> For a prostitute is a deep pit; an adulteress is a narrow well.

<sup>28</sup> She lies in wait like a robber and increases the traitors among mankind.

<sup>29</sup> Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

<sup>30</sup> Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine.

<sup>31</sup> Do not look at wine when it is red,  
when it sparkles in the cup and goes  
down smoothly.

<sup>32</sup> In the end it bites like a serpent and  
stings like an adder.

<sup>33</sup> Your eyes will see strange things, and  
your heart utter perverse things.

<sup>34</sup> You will be like one who lies down in  
the midst of the sea, like one who lies on  
the top of a mast.

<sup>35</sup> "They struck me," you will say, "but I  
was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not  
feel it. When shall I awake? I must have  
another drink."

**24** <sup>1</sup> Be not envious of evil men, nor  
desire to be with them,

<sup>2</sup> for their hearts devise violence, and  
their lips talk of trouble.

<sup>3</sup> By wisdom a house is built, and by  
understanding it is established;

<sup>4</sup> by knowledge the rooms are filled  
with all precious and pleasant riches.

<sup>5</sup> A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might,  
<sup>6</sup> for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.

<sup>7</sup> Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the gate he does not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer.

<sup>9</sup> The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind.

<sup>10</sup> If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

<sup>11</sup> Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.

<sup>12</sup> If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?

<sup>13</sup> My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.

<sup>14</sup> Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

<sup>15</sup> Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the righteous; do no violence to his home;

<sup>16</sup> for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

<sup>17</sup> Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,

<sup>18</sup> lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.

<sup>19</sup> Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked,

<sup>20</sup> for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

<sup>21</sup> My son, fear the LORD and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise,

<sup>22</sup> for disaster from them will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin that will come from them both?

<sup>23</sup> These also are sayings of the wise. Partiality in judging is not good.

<sup>24</sup> Whoever says to the wicked, "You are in the right," will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations,

<sup>25</sup> but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

<sup>26</sup> Whoever gives an honest answer kisses the lips.

<sup>27</sup> Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

<sup>28</sup> Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips.

<sup>29</sup> Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."

<sup>30</sup> I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense,

<sup>31</sup> and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.

<sup>32</sup> Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction.

<sup>33</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,

<sup>34</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

**25** <sup>1</sup> These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied.

<sup>2</sup> It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

<sup>3</sup> As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;

<sup>5</sup> take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. What your eyes have seen

<sup>8</sup> do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?

<sup>9</sup> Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret,

<sup>10</sup> lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

<sup>11</sup> A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

<sup>12</sup> Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprovor to a listening ear.

<sup>13</sup> Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.

<sup>14</sup> Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

<sup>15</sup> With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.

<sup>16</sup> If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, lest you have your fill of it and vomit it.

<sup>17</sup> Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

<sup>18</sup> A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

<sup>19</sup> Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.

<sup>20</sup> Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.

<sup>21</sup> If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,

<sup>22</sup> for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

<sup>23</sup> The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.

<sup>24</sup> It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

<sup>25</sup> Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

<sup>26</sup> Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

<sup>27</sup> It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.

<sup>28</sup> A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

**26** <sup>1</sup> Like snow in summer or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.

<sup>2</sup> Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, a curse that is causeless does not alight.

<sup>3</sup> A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools.

<sup>4</sup> Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.

<sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

<sup>6</sup> Whoever sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

<sup>7</sup> Like a lame man's legs, which hang useless, is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

<sup>8</sup> Like one who binds the stone in the sling is one who gives honor to a fool.

<sup>9</sup> Like a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

<sup>10</sup> Like an archer who wounds everyone is one who hires a passing fool or drunkard.

<sup>11</sup> Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

<sup>12</sup> Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

<sup>13</sup> The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!"

<sup>14</sup> As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.

<sup>15</sup> The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.

<sup>16</sup> The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.

<sup>18</sup> Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death

<sup>19</sup> is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!"

<sup>20</sup> For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

<sup>21</sup> As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

<sup>22</sup> The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

<sup>23</sup> Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are fervent lips with an evil heart.

<sup>24</sup> Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart;

<sup>25</sup> when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart;

<sup>26</sup> though his hatred be covered with deception, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.

<sup>27</sup> Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling.

<sup>28</sup> A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

**27** <sup>1</sup> Do not boast about tomorrow,  
for you do not know what a day  
may bring.

<sup>2</sup> Let another praise you, and not your  
own mouth; a stranger, and not your  
own lips.

<sup>3</sup> A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty,  
but a fool's provocation is heavier than  
both.

<sup>4</sup> Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming,  
but who can stand before jealousy?

<sup>5</sup> Better is open rebuke than hidden  
love.

<sup>6</sup> Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

<sup>7</sup> One who is full loathes honey, but to  
one who is hungry everything bitter is  
sweet.

<sup>8</sup> Like a bird that strays from its nest is a  
man who strays from his home.

<sup>9</sup> Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

<sup>10</sup> Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

<sup>11</sup> Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me.

<sup>12</sup> The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

<sup>13</sup> Take a man's garment when he has put up security for a stranger, and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for an adulteress.

<sup>14</sup> Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

<sup>15</sup> A continual dripping on a rainy day and a quarrelsome wife are alike;

<sup>16</sup> to restrain her is to restrain the wind or to grasp oil in one's right hand.

<sup>17</sup> Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

<sup>18</sup> Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored.

<sup>19</sup> As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.

<sup>20</sup> Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.

<sup>21</sup> The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.

<sup>22</sup> Crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him.

<sup>23</sup> Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds,

<sup>24</sup> for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations?

<sup>25</sup> When the grass is gone and the new growth appears and the vegetation of the mountains is gathered,

<sup>26</sup> the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field.

<sup>27</sup> There will be enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household and maintenance for your girls.

**28** <sup>1</sup> The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

<sup>2</sup> When a land transgresses, it has many rulers, but with a man of understanding and knowledge, its stability will long continue.

<sup>3</sup> A poor man who oppresses the poor is a beating rain that leaves no food.

<sup>4</sup> Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive against them.

<sup>5</sup> Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.

<sup>6</sup> Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

<sup>7</sup> The one who keeps the law is a son with understanding, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.

<sup>9</sup> If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

<sup>10</sup> Whoever misleads the upright into an evil way will fall into his own pit, but the blameless will have a goodly inheritance.

<sup>11</sup> A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has understanding will find him out.

<sup>12</sup> When the righteous triumph, there is great glory, but when the wicked rise, people hide themselves.

<sup>13</sup> Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

<sup>14</sup> Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

<sup>15</sup> Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

<sup>16</sup> A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.

<sup>17</sup> If one is burdened with the blood of another, he will be a fugitive until death; let no one help him.

<sup>18</sup> Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall.

<sup>19</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

<sup>20</sup> A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

<sup>21</sup> To show partiality is not good, but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong.

<sup>22</sup> A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.

<sup>23</sup> Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.

<sup>24</sup> Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, "That is no transgression," is a companion to a man who destroys.

<sup>25</sup> A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched.

<sup>26</sup> Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

<sup>27</sup> Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.

<sup>28</sup> When the wicked rise, people hide themselves, but when they perish, the righteous increase.

**29** <sup>1</sup> He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.

<sup>2</sup> When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

<sup>3</sup> He who loves wisdom makes his father glad, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

<sup>4</sup> By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts tears it down.

<sup>5</sup> A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

<sup>6</sup> An evil man is ensnared in his transgression, but a righteous man sings and rejoices.

<sup>7</sup> A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.

<sup>8</sup> Scoffers set a city aflame, but the wise turn away wrath.

<sup>9</sup> If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no quiet.

<sup>10</sup> Bloodthirsty men hate one who is blameless and seek the life of the upright.

<sup>11</sup> A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

<sup>12</sup> If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked.

<sup>13</sup> The poor man and the oppressor meet together; the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

<sup>14</sup> If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.

<sup>15</sup> The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

<sup>16</sup> When the wicked increase, transgression increases, but the righteous will look upon their downfall.

<sup>17</sup> Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

<sup>18</sup> Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

<sup>19</sup> By mere words a servant is not disciplined, for though he understands, he will not respond.

<sup>20</sup> Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever pampers his servant from childhood will in the end find him his heir.

<sup>22</sup> A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression.

<sup>23</sup> One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

<sup>24</sup> The partner of a thief hates his own life; he hears the curse, but discloses nothing.

<sup>25</sup> The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.

<sup>26</sup> Many seek the face of a ruler, but it is from the LORD that a man gets justice.

<sup>27</sup> An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, but one whose way is straight is an abomination to the wicked.

**30** <sup>1</sup> The words of Agur son of Jakeh.  
The oracle. The man declares, I am weary, O God; I am weary, O God, and worn out.

<sup>2</sup> Surely I am too stupid to be a man. I have not the understanding of a man.

<sup>3</sup> I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

<sup>4</sup> Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!

<sup>5</sup> Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

<sup>6</sup> Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

<sup>7</sup> Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:

<sup>8</sup> Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me,

<sup>9</sup> lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

<sup>10</sup> Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you and you be held guilty.

<sup>11</sup> There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers.

<sup>12</sup> There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.

<sup>13</sup> There are those--how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!

<sup>14</sup> There are those whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mankind.

<sup>15</sup> The leech has two daughters; "Give" and "Give," they cry. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough":

<sup>16</sup> Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, "Enough."

<sup>17</sup> The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

<sup>18</sup> Three things are too wonderful for me; four I do not understand:

<sup>19</sup> the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a virgin.

<sup>20</sup> This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, "I have done no wrong."

<sup>21</sup> Under three things the earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up:

<sup>22</sup> a slave when he becomes king, and a fool when he is filled with food;

<sup>23</sup> an unloved woman when she gets a husband, and a maidservant when she displaces her mistress.

<sup>24</sup> Four things on earth are small, but they are exceedingly wise:

<sup>25</sup> the ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer;

<sup>26</sup> the rock badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs;

<sup>27</sup> the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank;

<sup>28</sup> the lizard you can take in your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces.

<sup>29</sup> Three things are stately in their tread; four are stately in their stride:

<sup>30</sup> the lion, which is mightiest among beasts and does not turn back before any;

<sup>31</sup> the strutting rooster, the he-goat, and a king whose army is with him.

<sup>32</sup> If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth.

<sup>33</sup> For pressing milk produces curds, pressing the nose produces blood, and pressing anger produces strife.

**31** <sup>1</sup> The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him:

<sup>2</sup> What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?

<sup>3</sup> Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.

<sup>4</sup> It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink,

<sup>5</sup> lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

<sup>6</sup> Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;

<sup>7</sup> let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.

<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

<sup>10</sup> An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

<sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

<sup>13</sup> She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.

<sup>14</sup> She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.

<sup>15</sup> She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.

<sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

<sup>17</sup> She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

<sup>18</sup> She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

<sup>19</sup> She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

<sup>20</sup> She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

<sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

<sup>22</sup> She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.

<sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.

<sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

<sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

<sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

<sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

<sup>29</sup> "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

<sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

# Ecclesiastes

**1** <sup>1</sup> The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>3</sup> What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

<sup>4</sup> A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

<sup>5</sup> The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.

<sup>6</sup> The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.

<sup>7</sup> All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.

<sup>8</sup> All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

<sup>9</sup> What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>10</sup> Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us.

<sup>11</sup> There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.

<sup>12</sup> I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

<sup>14</sup> I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>15</sup> What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

<sup>16</sup> I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

<sup>17</sup> And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

<sup>18</sup> For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

**2**<sup>1</sup> I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity.

<sup>2</sup> I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?"

<sup>3</sup> I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine--my heart still guiding me with wisdom--and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

<sup>4</sup> I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.

<sup>5</sup> I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.

<sup>6</sup> I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees.

<sup>7</sup> I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.

<sup>8</sup> I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and

women, and many concubines, the delight of the children of man.

<sup>9</sup> So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.

<sup>10</sup> And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

<sup>11</sup> Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

<sup>12</sup> So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done.

<sup>13</sup> Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness.

<sup>14</sup> The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them.

<sup>15</sup> Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity.

<sup>16</sup> For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool!

<sup>17</sup> So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me,

<sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all

for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

<sup>20</sup> So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun,

<sup>21</sup> because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

<sup>22</sup> What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun?

<sup>23</sup> For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

<sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,

<sup>25</sup> for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

<sup>26</sup> For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

**3** <sup>1</sup> For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup> a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time

to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

<sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup> What gain has the worker from his toil?

<sup>10</sup> I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

<sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

<sup>12</sup> I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;

<sup>13</sup> also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil--this is God's gift to man.

<sup>14</sup> I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

<sup>15</sup> That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

<sup>16</sup> Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

<sup>17</sup> I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

<sup>18</sup> I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them

that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.

<sup>19</sup> For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.

<sup>20</sup> All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.

<sup>21</sup> Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

<sup>22</sup> So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

**4**<sup>1</sup> Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of

their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

<sup>2</sup> And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive.

<sup>3</sup> But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

<sup>4</sup> Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>5</sup> The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

<sup>6</sup> Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

<sup>7</sup> Again, I saw vanity under the sun:

<sup>8</sup> one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For

whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

<sup>10</sup> For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

<sup>11</sup> Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?

<sup>12</sup> And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him--a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

<sup>13</sup> Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice.

<sup>14</sup> For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor.

<sup>15</sup> I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place.

<sup>16</sup> There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.

<sup>2</sup> Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

<sup>3</sup> For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.

<sup>4</sup> When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.

<sup>5</sup> It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

<sup>6</sup> Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

<sup>7</sup> For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

<sup>8</sup> If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them.

<sup>9</sup> But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

<sup>10</sup> He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

<sup>11</sup> When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

<sup>12</sup> Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

<sup>13</sup> There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt,

<sup>14</sup> and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand.

<sup>15</sup> As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.

<sup>16</sup> This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind?

<sup>17</sup> Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

<sup>18</sup> Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot.

<sup>19</sup> Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil--this is the gift of God.

<sup>20</sup> For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

**6** <sup>1</sup> There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind:

<sup>2</sup> a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.

<sup>3</sup> If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he.

<sup>4</sup> For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered.

<sup>5</sup> Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he.

<sup>6</sup> Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good--do not all go to the one place?

<sup>7</sup> All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied.

<sup>8</sup> For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living?

<sup>9</sup> Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>10</sup> Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he.

<sup>11</sup> The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man?

<sup>12</sup> For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

**7**<sup>1</sup> A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

<sup>2</sup> It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.

<sup>3</sup> Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

<sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

<sup>5</sup> It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.

<sup>6</sup> For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

<sup>7</sup> Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

<sup>8</sup> Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

<sup>9</sup> Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.

<sup>10</sup> Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

<sup>11</sup> Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun.

<sup>12</sup> For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

<sup>13</sup> Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?

<sup>14</sup> In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so

that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

<sup>15</sup> In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing.

<sup>16</sup> Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself?

<sup>17</sup> Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

<sup>18</sup> It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

<sup>19</sup> Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

<sup>20</sup> Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

<sup>21</sup> Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you.

<sup>22</sup> Your heart knows that many times you have yourself cursed others.

<sup>23</sup> All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me.

<sup>24</sup> That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

<sup>25</sup> I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness.

<sup>26</sup> And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her.

<sup>27</sup> Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things--

<sup>28</sup> which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found.

<sup>29</sup> See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed.

<sup>2</sup> I say: Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him.

<sup>3</sup> Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases.

<sup>4</sup> For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?"

<sup>5</sup> Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way.

<sup>6</sup> For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him.

<sup>7</sup> For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be?

<sup>8</sup> No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it.

<sup>9</sup> All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done under the sun, when man had power over man to his hurt.

<sup>10</sup> Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity.

<sup>11</sup> Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.

<sup>12</sup> Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him.

<sup>13</sup> But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

<sup>14</sup> There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity.

<sup>15</sup> And I commend joy, for man has no good thing under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with

him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

<sup>16</sup> When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep,

<sup>17</sup> then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

**9** <sup>1</sup> But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him.

<sup>2</sup> It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not

sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath.

<sup>3</sup> This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

<sup>4</sup> But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

<sup>5</sup> For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten.

<sup>6</sup> Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

<sup>7</sup> Go, eat your bread in joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

<sup>8</sup> Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

<sup>9</sup> Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

<sup>10</sup> Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

<sup>11</sup> Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all.

<sup>12</sup> For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like

birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

<sup>13</sup> I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me.

<sup>14</sup> There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it.

<sup>15</sup> But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

<sup>16</sup> But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.

<sup>17</sup> The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.

<sup>18</sup> Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

**10**<sup>1</sup> Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench; so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

<sup>2</sup> A wise man's heart inclines him to the right, but a fool's heart to the left.

<sup>3</sup> Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense, and he says to everyone that he is a fool.

<sup>4</sup> If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place, for calmness will lay great offenses to rest.

<sup>5</sup> There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were an error proceeding from the ruler:

<sup>6</sup> folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place.

<sup>7</sup> I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves.

<sup>8</sup> He who digs a pit will fall into it, and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall.

<sup>9</sup> He who quarries stones is hurt by them, and he who splits logs is endangered by them.

<sup>10</sup> If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed.

<sup>11</sup> If the serpent bites before it is charmed, there is no advantage to the charmer.

<sup>12</sup> The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him.

<sup>13</sup> The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is evil madness.

<sup>14</sup> A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him?

<sup>15</sup> The toil of a fool wearies him, for he does not know the way to the city.

<sup>16</sup> Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning!

<sup>17</sup> Happy are you, O land, when your king is the son of the nobility, and your princes feast at the proper time, for strength, and not for drunkenness!

<sup>18</sup> Through sloth the roof sinks in, and through indolence the house leaks.

<sup>19</sup> Bread is made for laughter, and wine gladdens life, and money answers everything.

<sup>20</sup> Even in your thought, do not curse the king, nor in your bedroom curse the rich, for a bird of the air will carry your voice, or some winged creature tell the matter.

**11** <sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.

<sup>2</sup> Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

<sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

<sup>4</sup> He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

<sup>5</sup> As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

<sup>6</sup> In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

<sup>7</sup> Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

<sup>8</sup> So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

<sup>10</sup> Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

**12** <sup>1</sup> Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them";

<sup>2</sup> before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain,

<sup>3</sup> in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed,

<sup>4</sup> and the doors on the street are shut--when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low--

<sup>5</sup> they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets--

<sup>6</sup> before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern,

<sup>7</sup> and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

<sup>8</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

<sup>9</sup> Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.

<sup>10</sup> The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

<sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd.

<sup>12</sup> My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

<sup>13</sup> The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his

commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

# Song of Solomon

**1** <sup>1</sup> The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

<sup>2</sup> Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine;

<sup>3</sup> your anointing oils are fragrant; your name is oil poured out; therefore virgins love you.

<sup>4</sup> Draw me after you; let us run. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you.

<sup>5</sup> I am very dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.

<sup>6</sup> Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has looked upon me. My mother's sons were angry with me;

they made me keeper of the vineyards,  
but my own vineyard I have not kept!

<sup>7</sup> Tell me, you whom my soul loves,  
where you pasture your flock, where you  
make it lie down at noon; for why should  
I be like one who veils herself beside the  
flocks of your companions?

<sup>8</sup> If you do not know, O most beautiful  
among women, follow in the tracks of  
the flock, and pasture your young goats  
beside the shepherds' tents.

<sup>9</sup> I compare you, my love, to a mare  
among Pharaoh's chariots.

<sup>10</sup> Your cheeks are lovely with  
ornaments, your neck with strings of  
jewels.

<sup>11</sup> We will make for you ornaments of  
gold, studded with silver.

<sup>12</sup> While the king was on his couch, my  
nard gave forth its fragrance.

<sup>13</sup> My beloved is to me a sachet of  
myrrh that lies between my breasts.

<sup>14</sup> My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of Engedi.

<sup>15</sup> Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves.

<sup>16</sup> Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful. Our couch is green;

<sup>17</sup> the beams of our house are cedar; our rafters are pine.

**2** <sup>1</sup> I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

<sup>2</sup> As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.

<sup>3</sup> As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste,

<sup>4</sup> He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

<sup>5</sup> Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love.

<sup>6</sup> His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!

<sup>7</sup> I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

<sup>8</sup> The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.

<sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice.

<sup>10</sup> My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away,

<sup>11</sup> for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.

<sup>12</sup> The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

<sup>13</sup> The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

<sup>14</sup> O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

<sup>15</sup> Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom."

<sup>16</sup> My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.

<sup>17</sup> Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on cleft mountains.

**3**<sup>1</sup> On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not.

<sup>2</sup> I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves. I sought him, but found him not.

<sup>3</sup> The watchmen found me as they went about in the city. "Have you seen him whom my soul loves?"

<sup>4</sup> Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me.

<sup>5</sup> I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

<sup>6</sup> What is that coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke,

perfumed with myrrh and frankincense,  
with all the fragrant powders of a  
merchant?

<sup>7</sup> Behold, it is the litter of Solomon!  
Around it are sixty mighty men, some of  
the mighty men of Israel,

<sup>8</sup> all of them wearing swords and expert  
in war, each with his sword at his thigh,  
against terror by night.

<sup>9</sup> King Solomon made himself a carriage  
from the wood of Lebanon.

<sup>10</sup> He made its posts of silver, its back  
of gold, its seat of purple; its interior  
was inlaid with love by the daughters of  
Jerusalem.

<sup>11</sup> Go out, O daughters of Zion, and look  
upon King Solomon, with the crown with  
which his mother crowned him on the  
day of his wedding, on the day of the  
gladness of his heart.

**4** <sup>1</sup> Behold, you are beautiful, my love,  
behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes

are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.

<sup>2</sup> Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost its young.

<sup>3</sup> Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.

<sup>4</sup> Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.

<sup>5</sup> Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies.

<sup>6</sup> Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense.

<sup>7</sup> You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.

<sup>8</sup> Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards.

<sup>9</sup> You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.

<sup>10</sup> How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

<sup>11</sup> Your lips drip nectar, my bride; honey and milk are under your tongue; the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

<sup>12</sup> A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed.

<sup>13</sup> Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard,

<sup>14</sup> nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all chief spices--

<sup>15</sup> a garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon.

<sup>16</sup> Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow. Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits.

**5** <sup>1</sup> I came to my garden, my sister, my bride, I gathered my myrrh with my spice, I ate my honeycomb with my honey, I drank my wine with my milk. Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love!

<sup>2</sup> I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my

perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night."

<sup>3</sup> I had put off my garment; how could I put it on? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them?

<sup>4</sup> My beloved put his hand to the latch, and my heart was thrilled within me.

<sup>5</sup> I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the bolt.

<sup>6</sup> I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and gone. My soul failed me when he spoke. I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer.

<sup>7</sup> The watchmen found me as they went about in the city; they beat me, they bruised me, they took away my veil, those watchmen of the walls.

<sup>8</sup> I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am sick with love.

<sup>9</sup> What is your beloved more than another beloved, O most beautiful among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you thus adjure us?

<sup>10</sup> My beloved is radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand.

<sup>11</sup> His head is the finest gold; his locks are wavy, black as a raven.

<sup>12</sup> His eyes are like doves beside streams of water, bathed in milk, sitting beside a full pool.

<sup>13</sup> His cheeks are like beds of spices, mounds of sweet-smelling herbs. His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh.

<sup>14</sup> His arms are rods of gold, set with jewels. His body is polished ivory, bedecked with sapphires.

<sup>15</sup> His legs are alabaster columns, set on bases of gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars.

<sup>16</sup> His mouth is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, that we may seek him with you?

<sup>2</sup> My beloved has gone down to his garden to the beds of spices, to graze in the gardens and to gather lilies.

<sup>3</sup> I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies.

<sup>4</sup> You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners.

<sup>5</sup> Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me-- Your hair is like a

flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.

<sup>6</sup> Your teeth are like a flock of ewes that have come up from the washing; all of them bear twins; not one among them has lost its young.

<sup>7</sup> Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.

<sup>8</sup> There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number.

<sup>9</sup> My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her.

<sup>10</sup> "Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?"

<sup>11</sup> I went down to the nut orchard to look at the blossoms of the valley, to see

whether the vines had budded, whether the pomegranates were in bloom.

<sup>12</sup> Before I was aware, my desire set me among the chariots of my kinsman, a prince.

<sup>13</sup> Return, return, O Shulammitte, return, return, that we may look upon you. Why should you look upon the Shulammitte, as upon a dance before two armies?

**7** <sup>1</sup> How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O noble daughter! Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a master hand.

<sup>2</sup> Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat, encircled with lilies.

<sup>3</sup> Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.

<sup>4</sup> Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are pools in Heshbon, by the gate of

Bath-rabbim. Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon, which looks toward Damascus.

<sup>5</sup> Your head crowns you like Carmel, and your flowing locks are like purple; a king is held captive in the tresses.

<sup>6</sup> How beautiful and pleasant you are, O loved one, with all your delights!

<sup>7</sup> Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters.

<sup>8</sup> I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its fruit. Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples,

<sup>9</sup> and your mouth like the best wine. It goes down smoothly for my beloved, gliding over lips and teeth.

<sup>10</sup> I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.

<sup>11</sup> Come, my beloved, let us go out into the fields and lodge in the villages;

<sup>12</sup> let us go out early to the vineyards and see whether the vines have budded,

whether the grape blossoms have opened and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love.

<sup>13</sup> The mandrakes give forth fragrance, and beside our doors are all choice fruits, new as well as old, which I have laid up for you, O my beloved.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Oh that you were like a brother to me who nursed at my mother's breasts! If I found you outside, I would kiss you, and none would despise me.

<sup>2</sup> I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother-- she who used to teach me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate.

<sup>3</sup> His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!

<sup>4</sup> I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

<sup>5</sup> Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you. There your mother was in labor with you; there she who bore you was in labor.

<sup>6</sup> Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.

<sup>8</sup> We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when she is spoken for?

<sup>9</sup> If she is a wall, we will build on her a battlement of silver, but if she is a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

<sup>10</sup> I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers; then I was in his eyes as one who finds peace.

<sup>11</sup> Solomon had a vineyard at Baalhamon; he let out the vineyard to keepers; each one was to bring for its fruit a thousand pieces of silver.

<sup>12</sup> My vineyard, my very own, is before me; you, O Solomon, may have the thousand, and the keepers of the fruit two hundred.

<sup>13</sup> O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it.

<sup>14</sup> Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

# Isaiah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.

<sup>3</sup> The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."

<sup>4</sup> Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.

<sup>5</sup> Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

<sup>6</sup> From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.

<sup>7</sup> Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire; in your very presence foreigners devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.

<sup>8</sup> And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.

<sup>9</sup> If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

<sup>11</sup> "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

<sup>12</sup> "When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts?

<sup>13</sup> Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations-- I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.

<sup>14</sup> Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

<sup>15</sup> When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

<sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,

<sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

<sup>18</sup> "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

<sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

<sup>20</sup> but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>21</sup> How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers.

<sup>22</sup> Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water.

<sup>23</sup> Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore the Lord declares, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: "Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes.

<sup>25</sup> I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy.

<sup>26</sup> And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city."

<sup>27</sup> Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.

<sup>28</sup> But rebels and sinners shall be broken together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed.

<sup>29</sup> For they shall be ashamed of the oaks that you desired; and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen.

<sup>30</sup> For you shall be like an oak whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water.

<sup>31</sup> And the strong shall become tinder, and his work a spark, and both of them shall burn together, with none to quench them.

**2**<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,

<sup>3</sup> and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners.

<sup>7</sup> Their 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.

<sup>8</sup> Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.

<sup>9</sup> So man is humbled, and each one is brought low-- do not forgive them!

<sup>10</sup> Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty.

<sup>11</sup> The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

<sup>12</sup> For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up--and it shall be brought low;

<sup>13</sup> against all the cedars of Lebanon,  
lofty and lifted up; and against all the  
oaks of Bashan;

<sup>14</sup> against all the lofty mountains, and  
against all the uplifted hills;

<sup>15</sup> against every high tower, and against  
every fortified wall;

<sup>16</sup> against all the ships of Tarshish, and  
against all the beautiful craft.

<sup>17</sup> And the haughtiness of man shall  
be humbled, and the lofty pride of men  
shall be brought low, and the LORD alone  
will be exalted in that day.

<sup>18</sup> And the idols shall utterly pass away.

<sup>19</sup> And people shall enter the caves of  
the rocks and the holes of the ground,  
from before the terror of the LORD, and  
from the splendor of his majesty, when  
he rises to terrify the earth.

<sup>20</sup> In that day mankind will cast away  
their idols of silver and their idols of

gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats,

<sup>21</sup> to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.

<sup>22</sup> Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?

**3** <sup>1</sup> For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply, all support of bread, and all support of water;

<sup>2</sup> the mighty man and the soldier, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder,

<sup>3</sup> the captain of fifty and the man of rank, the counselor and the skillful magician and the expert in charms.

<sup>4</sup> And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them.

<sup>5</sup> And the people will oppress one another, every one his fellow and every one his neighbor; the youth will be insolent to the elder, and the despised to the honorable.

<sup>6</sup> For a man will take hold of his brother in the house of his father, saying: "You have a cloak; you shall be our leader, and this heap of ruins shall be under your rule";

<sup>7</sup> in that day he will speak out, saying: "I will not be a healer; in my house there is neither bread nor cloak; you shall not make me leader of the people."

<sup>8</sup> For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD, defying his glorious presence.

<sup>9</sup> For the look on their faces bears witness against them; they proclaim their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it.

Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.

<sup>10</sup> Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.

<sup>11</sup> Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.

<sup>12</sup> My people--infants are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your guides mislead you and they have swallowed up the course of your paths.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD has taken his place to contend; he stands to judge peoples.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: "It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

<sup>15</sup> What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?" declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD said: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet,

<sup>17</sup> therefore the Lord will strike with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will lay bare their secret parts.

<sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents;

<sup>19</sup> the pendants, the bracelets, and the scarves;

<sup>20</sup> the headdresses, the armlets, the sashes, the perfume boxes, and the amulets;

<sup>21</sup> the signet rings and nose rings;

<sup>22</sup> the festal robes, the mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags;

<sup>23</sup> the mirrors, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils.

<sup>24</sup> Instead of perfume there will be rottenness; and instead of a belt, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty.

<sup>25</sup> Your men shall fall by the sword and your mighty men in battle.

<sup>26</sup> And her gates shall lament and mourn; empty, she shall sit on the ground.

**4** <sup>1</sup> And seven women shall take hold of one man in that day, saying, "We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach."

<sup>2</sup> In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the

fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem,

<sup>4</sup> when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.

<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy.

<sup>6</sup> There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My

beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup> And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns

shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

<sup>8</sup> Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD of hosts has sworn in my hearing: "Surely many houses shall be desolate, large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant.

<sup>10</sup> For ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath, and a homer of seed shall yield but an ephah."

<sup>11</sup> Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong

drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them!

<sup>12</sup> They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down, her revelers and he who exults in her.

<sup>15</sup> Man is humbled, and each one is brought low, and the eyes of the haughty are brought low.

<sup>16</sup> But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.

<sup>17</sup> Then shall the lambs graze as in their pasture, and nomads shall eat among the ruins of the rich.

<sup>18</sup> Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes,

<sup>19</sup> who say: "Let him be quick, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!"

<sup>20</sup> Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

<sup>21</sup> Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!

<sup>22</sup> Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink,

<sup>23</sup> who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!

<sup>24</sup> Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked; and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

<sup>26</sup> He will raise a signal for nations afar off, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth; and behold, quickly, speedily they come!

<sup>27</sup> None is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a waistband is loose, not a sandal strap broken;

<sup>28</sup> their arrows are sharp, all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs seem like flint, and their wheels like the whirlwind.

<sup>29</sup> Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey; they carry it off, and none can rescue.

<sup>30</sup> They will growl over it on that day, like the growling of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds.

**6** <sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

<sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his

face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

<sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

<sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will

go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

<sup>9</sup> And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

<sup>10</sup> Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

<sup>11</sup> Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste,

<sup>12</sup> and the LORD removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

<sup>13</sup> And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or

an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump.

**7**<sup>1</sup> In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it.

<sup>2</sup> When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

<sup>3</sup> And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field.

<sup>4</sup> And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce

anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.

<sup>5</sup> Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying,

<sup>6</sup> "Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,"

<sup>7</sup> thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass.

<sup>8</sup> For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. (Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken to pieces so that it will no longer be a people.)

<sup>9</sup> "And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,

<sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

<sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

<sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

<sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since

the day that Ephraim departed from Judah--the king of Assyria."

<sup>18</sup> In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

<sup>19</sup> And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures.

<sup>20</sup> In that day the Lord will shave with a razor that is hired beyond the River--with the king of Assyria--the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also.

<sup>21</sup> In that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep,

<sup>22</sup> and because of the abundance of milk that they give, he will eat curds, for everyone who is left in the land will eat curds and honey.

<sup>23</sup> In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briars and thorns.

<sup>24</sup> With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briars and thorns.

<sup>25</sup> And as for all the hills that used to be hoed with a hoe, you will not come there for fear of briars and thorns, but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters, 'Belonging to Maher-shalal-hashbaz.'

<sup>2</sup> And I will get reliable witnesses, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah, to attest for me."

<sup>3</sup> And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then

the LORD said to me, "Call his name Maher-shalal-hashbaz;

<sup>4</sup> for before the boy knows how to cry 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria."

<sup>5</sup> The LORD spoke to me again:

<sup>6</sup> "Because this people have refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah,

<sup>7</sup> therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks,

<sup>8</sup> and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel."

<sup>9</sup> Be broken, you peoples, and be shattered; give ear, all you far countries; strap on your armor and be shattered; strap on your armor and be shattered.

<sup>10</sup> Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying:

<sup>12</sup> "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.

<sup>13</sup> But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

<sup>14</sup> And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken."

<sup>16</sup> Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples.

<sup>17</sup> I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him.

<sup>18</sup> Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

<sup>19</sup> And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?

<sup>20</sup> To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

<sup>21</sup> They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward.

<sup>22</sup> And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

**9** <sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time

forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord has sent a word against Jacob, and it will fall on Israel;

<sup>9</sup> and all the people will know, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, who say in pride and in arrogance of heart:

<sup>10</sup> "The bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place."

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD raises the adversaries of Rezin against him, and stirs up his enemies.

<sup>12</sup> The Syrians on the east and the Philistines on the west devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

<sup>13</sup> The people did not turn to him who struck them, nor inquire of the LORD of hosts.

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD cut off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day--

<sup>15</sup> the elder and honored man is the head, and the prophet who teaches lies is the tail;

<sup>16</sup> for those who guide this people have been leading them astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord does not rejoice over their young men, and has no compassion on their fatherless and widows; for everyone is godless and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

<sup>18</sup> For wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns; it kindles the thickets of the forest, and they roll upward in a column of smoke.

<sup>19</sup> Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts the land is scorched, and the people are like fuel for the fire; no one spares another.

<sup>20</sup> They slice meat on the right, but are still hungry, and they devour on the left, but are not satisfied; each devours the flesh of his own arm,

<sup>21</sup> Manasseh devours Ephraim, and Ephraim devours Manasseh; together they are against Judah. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression,

<sup>2</sup> to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey!

<sup>3</sup> What will you do on the day of punishment, in the ruin that will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help, and where will you leave your wealth?

<sup>4</sup> Nothing remains but to crouch among the prisoners or fall among the slain. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

<sup>5</sup> Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury!

<sup>6</sup> Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

<sup>7</sup> But he does not so intend, and his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few;

<sup>8</sup> for he says: "Are not my commanders all kings?"

<sup>9</sup> Is not Calno like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus?

<sup>10</sup> As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, whose carved images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria,

<sup>11</sup> shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols as I have done to Samaria and her images?"

<sup>12</sup> When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes.

<sup>13</sup> For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I remove the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures; like a bull I bring down those who sit on thrones.

<sup>14</sup> My hand has found like a nest the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing or opened the mouth or chirped."

<sup>15</sup> Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it, or the saw magnify itself against him who wields it? As if a rod should wield him who lifts it, or as if a staff should lift him who is not wood!

<sup>16</sup> Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire.

<sup>17</sup> The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and briers in one day.

<sup>18</sup> The glory of his forest and of his fruitful land the LORD will destroy, both

soul and body, and it will be as when a sick man wastes away.

<sup>19</sup> The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down.

<sup>20</sup> In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

<sup>21</sup> A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

<sup>22</sup> For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.

<sup>23</sup> For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in the midst of all the earth.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "O my people, who dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrians when they

strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did.

<sup>25</sup> For in a very little while my fury will come to an end, and my anger will be directed to their destruction.

<sup>26</sup> And the LORD of hosts will wield against them a whip, as when he struck Midian at the rock of Oreb. And his staff will be over the sea, and he will lift it as he did in Egypt.

<sup>27</sup> And in that day his burden will depart from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck; and the yoke will be broken because of the fat."

<sup>28</sup> He has come to Aiath; he has passed through Migron; at Michmash he stores his baggage;

<sup>29</sup> they have crossed over the pass; at Geba they lodge for the night; Ramah trembles; Gibeah of Saul has fled.

<sup>30</sup> Cry aloud, O daughter of Gallim! Give attention, O Laishah! O Poor Anathoth!

<sup>31</sup> Madmenah is in flight; the inhabitants of Gebim flee for safety.

<sup>32</sup> This very day he will halt at Nob; he will shake his fist at the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.

<sup>33</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD of hosts will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the great in height will be hewn down, and the lofty will be brought low.

<sup>34</sup> He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.

**11** <sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his

eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

<sup>11</sup> In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

<sup>12</sup> He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

<sup>13</sup> The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous

of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

<sup>14</sup> But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.

<sup>15</sup> And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals.

<sup>16</sup> And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.

**12** <sup>1</sup> You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your

anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

<sup>2</sup> "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

**13** <sup>1</sup> The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

<sup>2</sup> On a bare hill raise a signal; cry aloud to them; wave the hand for them to enter the gates of the nobles.

<sup>3</sup> I myself have commanded my consecrated ones, and have summoned my mighty men to execute my anger, my proudly exulting ones.

<sup>4</sup> The sound of a tumult is on the mountains as of a great multitude! The sound of an uproar of kingdoms, of nations gathering together! The LORD of hosts is mustering a host for battle.

<sup>5</sup> They come from a distant land, from the end of the heavens, the LORD and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.

<sup>6</sup> Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt.

<sup>8</sup> They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame.

<sup>9</sup> Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

<sup>10</sup> For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.

<sup>11</sup> I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.

<sup>12</sup> I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken

out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.

<sup>14</sup> And like a hunted gazelle, or like sheep with none to gather them, each will turn to his own people, and each will flee to his own land.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever is found will be thrust through, and whoever is caught will fall by the sword.

<sup>16</sup> Their infants will be dashed in pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered and their wives ravished.

<sup>17</sup> Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against them, who have no regard for silver and do not delight in gold.

<sup>18</sup> Their bows will slaughter the young men; they will have no mercy on the fruit of the womb; their eyes will not pity children.

<sup>19</sup> And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans,

will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.

<sup>20</sup> It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there.

<sup>21</sup> But wild animals will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance.

<sup>22</sup> Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged.

**14** <sup>1</sup> For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> And the peoples will take them and bring them to their place, and the

house of Israel will possess them in the LORD's land as male and female slaves. They will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them.

<sup>3</sup> When the LORD has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and the hard service with which you were made to serve,

<sup>4</sup> you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: "How the oppressor has ceased, the insolent fury ceased!

<sup>5</sup> The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers,

<sup>6</sup> that struck the peoples in wrath with unceasing blows, that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution.

<sup>7</sup> The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing.

<sup>8</sup> The cypresses rejoice at you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since you

were laid low, no woodcutter comes up against us.'

<sup>9</sup> Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations.

<sup>10</sup> All of them will answer and say to you: 'You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!'

<sup>11</sup> Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps; maggots are laid as a bed beneath you, and worms are your covers.

<sup>12</sup> "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

<sup>13</sup> You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the

mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

<sup>15</sup> But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

<sup>16</sup> Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms,

<sup>17</sup> who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?'

<sup>18</sup> All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb;

<sup>19</sup> but you are cast out, away from your grave, like a loathed branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a dead body trampled underfoot.

<sup>20</sup> You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have slain your people. "May the offspring of evildoers nevermore be named!

<sup>21</sup> Prepare slaughter for his sons because of the guilt of their fathers, lest they rise and possess the earth, and fill the face of the world with cities."

<sup>22</sup> "I will rise up against them," declares the LORD of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity," says the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> "And I will make it a possession of the hedgehog, and pools of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," declares the LORD of hosts.

<sup>24</sup> The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,

<sup>25</sup> that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder."

<sup>26</sup> This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations.

<sup>27</sup> For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?

<sup>28</sup> In the year that King Ahaz died came this oracle:

<sup>29</sup> Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of you, that the rod that struck you is broken, for from the serpent's root will come forth an adder, and its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent.

<sup>30</sup> And the firstborn of the poor will graze, and the needy lie down in safety;

but I will kill your root with famine, and your remnant it will slay.

<sup>31</sup> Wail, O gate; cry out, O city; melt in fear, O Philistia, all of you! For smoke comes out of the north, and there is no straggler in his ranks.

<sup>32</sup> What will one answer the messengers of the nation? "The LORD has founded Zion, and in her the afflicted of his people find refuge."

**15** <sup>1</sup> An oracle concerning Moab. Because Ar of Moab is laid waste in a night, Moab is undone; because Kir of Moab is laid waste in a night, Moab is undone.

<sup>2</sup> He has gone up to the temple, and to Dibon, to the high places to weep; over Nebo and over Medeba Moab wails. On every head is baldness; every beard is shorn;

<sup>3</sup> in the streets they wear sackcloth;  
on the housetops and in the squares  
everyone wails and melts in tears.

<sup>4</sup> Heshbon and Elealeh cry out; their  
voice is heard as far as Jahaz; therefore  
the armed men of Moab cry aloud; his  
soul trembles.

<sup>5</sup> My heart cries out for Moab;  
her fugitives flee to Zoar, to Eglath-  
shelishiyah. For at the ascent of Luhith  
they go up weeping; on the road to  
Horonaim they raise a cry of destruction;

<sup>6</sup> the waters of Nimrim are a desolation;  
the grass is withered, the vegetation  
fails, the greenery is no more.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore the abundance they have  
gained and what they have laid up  
they carry away over the Brook of the  
Willows.

<sup>8</sup> For a cry has gone around the land of  
Moab; her wailing reaches to Eglaim; her  
wailing reaches to Beer-elim.

<sup>9</sup> For the waters of Dibon are full of blood; for I will bring upon Dibon even more, a lion for those of Moab who escape, for the remnant of the land.

**16** <sup>1</sup> Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, from Sela, by way of the desert, to the mount of the daughter of Zion.

<sup>2</sup> Like fleeing birds, like a scattered nest, so are the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon.

<sup>3</sup> "Give counsel; grant justice; make your shade like night at the height of noon; shelter the outcasts; do not reveal the fugitive;

<sup>4</sup> let the outcasts of Moab sojourn among you; be a shelter to them from the destroyer. When the oppressor is no more and destruction has ceased, and he who tramples underfoot has vanished from the land,

<sup>5</sup> then a throne will be established in steadfast love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness."

<sup>6</sup> We have heard of the pride of Moab-- how proud he is!-- of his arrogance, his pride, and his insolence; in his idle boasting he is not right.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore let Moab wail for Moab, let everyone wail. Mourn, utterly stricken, for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth.

<sup>8</sup> For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah; the lords of the nations have struck down its branches, which reached to Jazer and strayed to the desert; its shoots spread abroad and passed over the sea.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore I weep with the weeping of Jazer for the vine of Sibmah; I drench you with my tears, O Heshbon and Elealeh;

for over your summer fruit and your harvest the shout has ceased.

<sup>10</sup> And joy and gladness are taken away from the fruitful field, and in the vineyards no songs are sung, no cheers are raised; no treader treads out wine in the presses; I have put an end to the shouting.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore my inner parts moan like a lyre for Moab, and my inmost self for Kir-hareseth.

<sup>12</sup> And when Moab presents himself, when he wearies himself on the high place, when he comes to his sanctuary to pray, he will not prevail.

<sup>13</sup> This is the word that the LORD spoke concerning Moab in the past.

<sup>14</sup> But now the LORD has spoken, saying, "In three years, like the years of a hired worker, the glory of Moab will be brought into contempt, in spite of all his

great multitude, and those who remain will be very few and feeble."

**17** <sup>1</sup> An oracle concerning Damascus. Behold, Damascus will cease to be a city and will become a heap of ruins.

<sup>2</sup> The cities of Aroer are deserted; they will be for flocks, which will lie down, and none will make them afraid.

<sup>3</sup> The fortress will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus; and the remnant of Syria will be like the glory of the children of Israel, declares the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup> And in that day the glory of Jacob will be brought low, and the fat of his flesh will grow lean.

<sup>5</sup> And it shall be as when the reaper gathers standing grain and his arm harvests the ears, and as when one gleans the ears of grain in the Valley of Rephaim.

<sup>6</sup> Gleanings will be left in it, as when an olive tree is beaten-- two or three berries in the top of the highest bough, four or five on the branches of a fruit tree, declares the LORD God of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> He will not look to the altars, the work of his hands, and he will not look on what his own fingers have made, either the Asherim or the altars of incense.

<sup>9</sup> In that day their strong cities will be like the deserted places of the wooded heights and the hilltops, which they deserted because of the children of Israel, and there will be desolation.

<sup>10</sup> For you have forgotten the God of your salvation and have not remembered the Rock of your refuge; therefore, though you plant pleasant

plants and sow the vine-branch of a stranger,

<sup>11</sup> though you make them grow on the day that you plant them, and make them blossom in the morning that you sow, yet the harvest will flee away in a day of grief and incurable pain.

<sup>12</sup> Ah, the thunder of many peoples; they thunder like the thundering of the sea! Ah, the roar of nations; they roar like the roaring of mighty waters!

<sup>13</sup> The nations roar like the roaring of many waters, but he will rebuke them, and they will flee far away, chased like chaff on the mountains before the wind and whirling dust before the storm.

<sup>14</sup> At evening time, behold, terror! Before morning, they are no more! This is the portion of those who loot us, and the lot of those who plunder us.

**18** <sup>1</sup> Ah, land of whirring wings that is beyond the rivers of Cush,

<sup>2</sup> which sends ambassadors by the sea, in vessels of papyrus on the waters! Go, you swift messengers, to a nation, tall and smooth, to a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divide.

<sup>3</sup> All you inhabitants of the world, you who dwell on the earth, when a signal is raised on the mountains, look! When a trumpet is blown, hear!

<sup>4</sup> For thus the LORD said to me: "I will quietly look from my dwelling like clear heat in sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."

<sup>5</sup> For before the harvest, when the blossom is over, and the flower becomes a ripening grape, he cuts off the shoots with pruning hooks, and the spreading branches he lops off and clears away.

<sup>6</sup> They shall all of them be left to the birds of prey of the mountains and to the beasts of the earth. And the birds of

prey will summer on them, and all the beasts of the earth will winter on them.

<sup>7</sup> At that time tribute will be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth, from a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divide, to Mount Zion, the place of the name of the LORD of hosts.

**19** <sup>1</sup> An oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

<sup>2</sup> And I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians, and they will fight, each against another and each against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom;

<sup>3</sup> and the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out, and I will

confound their counsel; and they will inquire of the idols and the sorcerers, and the mediums and the necromancers; <sup>4</sup> and I will give over the Egyptians into the hand of a hard master, and a fierce king will rule over them, declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

<sup>5</sup> And the waters of the sea will be dried up, and the river will be dry and parched, <sup>6</sup> and its canals will become foul, and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish and dry up, reeds and rushes will rot away.

<sup>7</sup> There will be bare places by the Nile, on the brink of the Nile, and all that is sown by the Nile will be parched, will be driven away, and will be no more.

<sup>8</sup> The fishermen will mourn and lament, all who cast a hook in the Nile; and they will languish who spread nets on the water.

<sup>9</sup> The workers in combed flax will be in despair, and the weavers of white cotton.

<sup>10</sup> Those who are the pillars of the land will be crushed, and all who work for pay will be grieved.

<sup>11</sup> The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish; the wisest counselors of Pharaoh give stupid counsel. How can you say to Pharaoh, "I am a son of the wise, a son of ancient kings"?

<sup>12</sup> Where then are your wise men? Let them tell you that they might know what the LORD of hosts has purposed against Egypt.

<sup>13</sup> The princes of Zoan have become fools, and the princes of Memphis are deluded; those who are the cornerstones of her tribes have made Egypt stagger.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD has mingled within her a spirit of confusion, and they will

make Egypt stagger in all its deeds, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

<sup>15</sup> And there will be nothing for Egypt that head or tail, palm branch or reed, may do.

<sup>16</sup> In that day the Egyptians will be like women, and tremble with fear before the hand that the LORD of hosts shakes over them.

<sup>17</sup> And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians. Everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the purpose that the LORD of hosts has purposed against them.

<sup>18</sup> In that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD of hosts. One of these will be called the City of Destruction.

<sup>19</sup> In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of

Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border.

<sup>20</sup> It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them.

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the LORD and perform them.

<sup>22</sup> And the LORD will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the LORD, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them.

<sup>23</sup> In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

<sup>24</sup> In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth,

<sup>25</sup> whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

**20** <sup>1</sup> In the year that the commander in chief, who was sent by Sargon the king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and fought against it and captured it--

<sup>2</sup> at that time the LORD spoke by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go, and loose the sackcloth from your waist and take off your sandals from your feet," and he did so, walking naked and barefoot.

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said, "As my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and a portent against Egypt and Cush,

<sup>4</sup> so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptian captives and the Cushite

exiles, both the young and the old, naked and barefoot, with buttocks uncovered, the nakedness of Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> Then they shall be dismayed and ashamed because of Cush their hope and of Egypt their boast.

<sup>6</sup> And the inhabitants of this coastland will say in that day, 'Behold, this is what has happened to those in whom we hoped and to whom we fled for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria! And we, how shall we escape?'"

**21** <sup>1</sup> The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea. As whirlwinds in the Negeb sweep on, it comes from the wilderness, from a terrible land.

<sup>2</sup> A stern vision is told to me; the traitor betrays, and the destroyer destroys. Go up, O Elam; lay siege, O Media; all the sighing she has caused I bring to an end.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore my loins are filled with anguish; pangs have seized me, like the pangs of a woman in labor; I am bowed down so that I cannot hear; I am dismayed so that I cannot see.

<sup>4</sup> My heart staggers; horror has appalled me; the twilight I longed for has been turned for me into trembling.

<sup>5</sup> They prepare the table, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink. Arise, O princes; oil the shield!

<sup>6</sup> For thus the Lord said to me: "Go, set a watchman; let him announce what he sees.

<sup>7</sup> When he sees riders, horsemen in pairs, riders on donkeys, riders on camels, let him listen diligently, very diligently."

<sup>8</sup> Then he who saw cried out: "Upon a watchtower I stand, O Lord, continually by day, and at my post I am stationed whole nights.

<sup>9</sup> And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs!" And he answered, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the carved images of her gods he has shattered to the ground."

<sup>10</sup> O my threshed and winnowed one, what I have heard from the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, I announce to you.

<sup>11</sup> The oracle concerning Dumah. One is calling to me from Seir, "Watchman, what time of the night? Watchman, what time of the night?"

<sup>12</sup> The watchman says: "Morning comes, and also the night. If you will inquire, inquire; come back again."

<sup>13</sup> The oracle concerning Arabia. In the thickets in Arabia you will lodge, O caravans of Dedanites.

<sup>14</sup> To the thirsty bring water; meet the fugitive with bread, O inhabitants of the land of Tema.

<sup>15</sup> For they have fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the press of battle.

<sup>16</sup> For thus the Lord said to me, "Within a year, according to the years of a hired worker, all the glory of Kedar will come to an end.

<sup>17</sup> And the remainder of the archers of the mighty men of the sons of Kedar will be few, for the LORD, the God of Israel, has spoken."

**22** <sup>1</sup> The oracle concerning the valley of vision. What do you mean that you have gone up, all of you, to the housetops,

<sup>2</sup> you who are full of shoutings, tumultuous city, exultant town? Your slain are not slain with the sword or dead in battle.

<sup>3</sup> All your leaders have fled together; without the bow they were captured. All

of you who were found were captured, though they had fled far away.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore I said: "Look away from me; let me weep bitter tears; do not labor to comfort me concerning the destruction of the daughter of my people."

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord GOD of hosts has a day of tumult and trampling and confusion in the valley of vision, a battering down of walls and a shouting to the mountains.

<sup>6</sup> And Elam bore the quiver with chariots and horsemen, and Kir uncovered the shield.

<sup>7</sup> Your choicest valleys were full of chariots, and the horsemen took their stand at the gates.

<sup>8</sup> He has taken away the covering of Judah. In that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest,

<sup>9</sup> and you saw that the breaches of the city of David were many. You collected the waters of the lower pool,

<sup>10</sup> and you counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall.

<sup>11</sup> You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or see him who planned it long ago.

<sup>12</sup> In that day the Lord GOD of hosts called for weeping and mourning, for baldness and wearing sackcloth;

<sup>13</sup> and behold, joy and gladness, killing oxen and slaughtering sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD of hosts has revealed himself in my ears: "Surely this iniquity will not be atoned for you until you die," says the Lord GOD of hosts.

<sup>15</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, "Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him:

<sup>16</sup> What have you to do here, and whom have you here, that you have cut out here a tomb for yourself, you who cut out a tomb on the height and carve a dwelling for yourself in the rock?

<sup>17</sup> Behold, the LORD will hurl you away violently, O you strong man. He will seize firm hold on you

<sup>18</sup> and whirl you around and around, and throw you like a ball into a wide land. There you shall die, and there shall be your glorious chariots, you shame of your master's house.

<sup>19</sup> I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station.

<sup>20</sup> In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah,

<sup>21</sup> and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And

he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

<sup>22</sup> And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

<sup>23</sup> And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house.

<sup>24</sup> And they will hang on him the whole honor of his father's house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons.

<sup>25</sup> In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way, and it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

**23** <sup>1</sup> The oracle concerning Tyre.  
Wail, O ships of Tarshish, for Tyre is laid waste, without house or harbor!

From the land of Cyprus it is revealed to them.

<sup>2</sup> Be still, O inhabitants of the coast; the merchants of Sidon, who cross the sea, have filled you.

<sup>3</sup> And on many waters your revenue was the grain of Shihor, the harvest of the Nile; you were the merchant of the nations.

<sup>4</sup> Be ashamed, O Sidon, for the sea has spoken, the stronghold of the sea, saying: "I have neither labored nor given birth, I have neither reared young men nor brought up young women."

<sup>5</sup> When the report comes to Egypt, they will be in anguish over the report about Tyre.

<sup>6</sup> Cross over to Tarshish; wail, O inhabitants of the coast!

<sup>7</sup> Is this your exultant city whose origin is from days of old, whose feet carried her to settle far away?

<sup>8</sup> Who has purposed this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honored of the earth?

<sup>9</sup> The LORD of hosts has purposed it, to defile the pompous pride of all glory, to dishonor all the honored of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Cross over your land like the Nile, O daughter of Tarshish; there is no restraint anymore.

<sup>11</sup> He has stretched out his hand over the sea; he has shaken the kingdoms; the LORD has given command concerning Canaan to destroy its strongholds.

<sup>12</sup> And he said: "You will no more exult, O oppressed virgin daughter of Sidon; arise, cross over to Cyprus, even there you will have no rest."

<sup>13</sup> Behold the land of the Chaldeans! This is the people that was not; Assyria destined it for wild beasts. They erected

their siege towers, they stripped her palaces bare, they made her a ruin.

<sup>14</sup> Wail, O ships of Tarshish, for your stronghold is laid waste.

<sup>15</sup> In that day Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, like the days of one king. At the end of seventy years, it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the prostitute:

<sup>16</sup> "Take a harp; go about the city, O forgotten prostitute! Make sweet melody; sing many songs, that you may be remembered."

<sup>17</sup> At the end of seventy years, the LORD will visit Tyre, and she will return to her wages and will prostitute herself with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.

<sup>18</sup> Her merchandise and her wages will be holy to the LORD. It will not be stored or hoarded, but her merchandise will

supply abundant food and fine clothing for those who dwell before the LORD.

**24** <sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.

<sup>2</sup> And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the slave, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor.

<sup>3</sup> The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered; for the LORD has spoken this word.

<sup>4</sup> The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish.

<sup>5</sup> The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed

the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.

<sup>7</sup> The wine mourns, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh.

<sup>8</sup> The mirth of the tambourines is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled.

<sup>9</sup> No more do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

<sup>10</sup> The wasted city is broken down; every house is shut up so that none can enter.

<sup>11</sup> There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has grown dark; the gladness of the earth is banished.

<sup>12</sup> Desolation is left in the city; the gates are battered into ruins.

<sup>13</sup> For thus it shall be in the midst of the earth among the nations, as when an olive tree is beaten, as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is done.

<sup>14</sup> They lift up their voices, they sing for joy; over the majesty of the LORD they shout from the west.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore in the east give glory to the LORD; in the coastlands of the sea, give glory to the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

<sup>16</sup> From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise, of glory to the Righteous One. But I say, "I waste away, I waste away. Woe is me! For the traitors have betrayed, with betrayal the traitors have betrayed."

<sup>17</sup> Terror and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth!

<sup>18</sup> He who flees at the sound of the terror shall fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit shall be caught in

the snare. For the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble.

<sup>19</sup> The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken.

<sup>20</sup> The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again.

<sup>21</sup> On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth.

<sup>22</sup> They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.

<sup>23</sup> Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.

**25** <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup> For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall,

<sup>5</sup> like heat in a dry place. You subdue the noise of the foreigners; as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is put down.

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich

food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

<sup>7</sup> And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

<sup>10</sup> For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain, and Moab shall be trampled down in his place, as straw is trampled down in a dunghill.

<sup>11</sup> And he will spread out his hands in the midst of it as a swimmer spreads his hands out to swim, but the LORD will lay low his pompous pride together with the skill of his hands.

<sup>12</sup> And the high fortifications of his walls he will bring down, lay low, and cast to the ground, to the dust.

**26** <sup>1</sup> In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.

<sup>2</sup> Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

<sup>3</sup> You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

<sup>5</sup> For he has humbled the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city. He lays it low,

lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust.

<sup>6</sup> The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy."

<sup>7</sup> The path of the righteous is level; you make level the way of the righteous.

<sup>8</sup> In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul.

<sup>9</sup> My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> If favor is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly and does not see the majesty of the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, your hand is lifted up, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed. Let

the fire for your adversaries consume them.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD, you will ordain peace for us; you have done for us all our works.

<sup>13</sup> O LORD our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone we bring to remembrance.

<sup>14</sup> They are dead, they will not live; they are shades, they will not arise; to that end you have visited them with destruction and wiped out all remembrance of them.

<sup>15</sup> But you have increased the nation, O LORD, you have increased the nation; you are glorified; you have enlarged all the borders of the land.

<sup>16</sup> O LORD, in distress they sought you; they poured out a whispered prayer when your discipline was upon them.

<sup>17</sup> Like a pregnant woman who writhes and cries out in her pangs when she is

near to giving birth, so were we because of you, O LORD;

<sup>18</sup> we were pregnant, we writhed, but we have given birth to wind. We have accomplished no deliverance in the earth, and the inhabitants of the world have not fallen.

<sup>19</sup> Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

<sup>20</sup> Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by.

<sup>21</sup> For behold, the LORD is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.

**27** <sup>1</sup> In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.

<sup>2</sup> In that day, "A pleasant vineyard, sing of it!

<sup>3</sup> I, the LORD, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day;

<sup>4</sup> I have no wrath. Would that I had thorns and briers to battle! I would march against them, I would burn them up together.

<sup>5</sup> Or let them lay hold of my protection, let them make peace with me, let them make peace with me."

<sup>6</sup> In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

<sup>7</sup> Has he struck them as he struck those who struck them? Or have they been slain as their slayers were slain?

<sup>8</sup> Measure by measure, by exile you contended with them; he removed them with his fierce breath in the day of the east wind.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore by this the guilt of Jacob will be atoned for, and this will be the full fruit of the removal of his sin: when he makes all the stones of the altars like chalkstones crushed to pieces, no Asherim or incense altars will remain standing.

<sup>10</sup> For the fortified city is solitary, a habitation deserted and forsaken, like the wilderness; there the calf grazes; there it lies down and strips its branches.

<sup>11</sup> When its boughs are dry, they are broken; women come and make a fire of them. For this is a people without discernment; therefore he who made

them will not have compassion on them; he who formed them will show them no favor.

<sup>12</sup> In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt the LORD will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one by one, O people of Israel.

<sup>13</sup> And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

**28** <sup>1</sup> Ah, the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim, and the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is on the head of the rich valley of those overcome with wine!

<sup>2</sup> Behold, the Lord has one who is mighty and strong; like a storm of hail, a destroying tempest, like a storm of

mighty, overflowing waters, he casts down to the earth with his hand.

<sup>3</sup> The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim will be trodden underfoot;

<sup>4</sup> and the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is on the head of the rich valley, will be like a first-ripe fig before the summer: when someone sees it, he swallows it as soon as it is in his hand.

<sup>5</sup> In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people,

<sup>6</sup> and a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, and strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

<sup>7</sup> These also reel with wine and stagger with strong drink; the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment.

<sup>8</sup> For all tables are full of filthy vomit, with no space left.

<sup>9</sup> "To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast?

<sup>10</sup> For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little."

<sup>11</sup> For by people of strange lips and with a foreign tongue the LORD will speak to this people,

<sup>12</sup> to whom he has said, "This is rest; give rest to the weary; and this is repose"; yet they would not hear.

<sup>13</sup> And the word of the LORD will be to them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little, that they may go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter";

<sup>16</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'

<sup>17</sup> And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter."

<sup>18</sup> Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement

with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it.

<sup>19</sup> As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message.

<sup>20</sup> For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in.

<sup>21</sup> For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim; as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused; to do his deed--strange is his deed! and to work his work--alien is his work!

<sup>22</sup> Now therefore do not scoff, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land.

<sup>23</sup> Give ear, and hear my voice; give attention, and hear my speech.

<sup>24</sup> Does he who plows for sowing plow continually? does he continually open and harrow his ground?

<sup>25</sup> When he has leveled its surface, does he not scatter dill, sow cumin, and put in wheat in rows and barley in its proper place, and emmer as the border?

<sup>26</sup> For he is rightly instructed; his God teaches him.

<sup>27</sup> Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin, but dill is beaten out with a stick, and cumin with a rod.

<sup>28</sup> Does one crush grain for bread? No, he does not thresh it forever; when he drives his cart wheel over it with his horses, he does not crush it.

<sup>29</sup> This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.

**29** <sup>1</sup> Ah, Ariel, Ariel, the city where David encamped! Add year to year; let the feasts run their round.

<sup>2</sup> Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be moaning and lamentation, and she shall be to me like an Ariel.

<sup>3</sup> And I will encamp against you all around, and will besiege you with towers and I will raise siegeworks against you.

<sup>4</sup> And you will be brought low; from the earth you shall speak, and from the dust your speech will be bowed down; your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost, and from the dust your speech shall whisper.

<sup>5</sup> But the multitude of your foreign foes shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the ruthless like passing chaff. And in an instant, suddenly,

<sup>6</sup> you will be visited by the LORD of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and

tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire.

<sup>7</sup> And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, all that fight against her and her stronghold and distress her, shall be like a dream, a vision of the night.

<sup>8</sup> As when a hungry man dreams he is eating and awakes with his hunger not satisfied, or as when a thirsty man dreams he is drinking and awakes faint, with his thirst not quenched, so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Astonish yourselves and be astonished; blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not with wine; stagger, but not with strong drink!

<sup>10</sup> For the LORD has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers).

<sup>11</sup> And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

<sup>12</sup> And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read."

<sup>13</sup> And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

<sup>14</sup> therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

<sup>15</sup> Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in

the dark, and who say, "Who sees us?  
Who knows us?"

<sup>16</sup> You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

<sup>17</sup> Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?

<sup>18</sup> In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.

<sup>19</sup> The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>20</sup> For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,

<sup>21</sup> who by a word make a man out to be an offender, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale.

<sup>23</sup> For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction."

**30** <sup>1</sup> "Ah, stubborn children," declares the LORD, "who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;

<sup>2</sup> who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

<sup>3</sup> Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation.

<sup>4</sup> For though his officials are at Zoan and his envoys reach Hanes,

<sup>5</sup> everyone comes to shame through a people that cannot profit them, that brings neither help nor profit, but shame and disgrace."

<sup>6</sup> An oracle on the beasts of the Negeb. Through a land of trouble and anguish, from where come the lioness and the lion, the adder and the flying fiery serpent, they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys, and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people that cannot profit them.

<sup>7</sup> Egypt's help is worthless and empty; therefore I have called her "Rahab who sits still."

<sup>8</sup> And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.

<sup>9</sup> For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD;

<sup>10</sup> who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions,

<sup>11</sup> leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

<sup>12</sup> Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them,

<sup>13</sup> therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant;

<sup>14</sup> and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern."

<sup>15</sup> For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling,

<sup>16</sup> and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

<sup>17</sup> A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee,

till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

<sup>19</sup> For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.

<sup>20</sup> And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

<sup>21</sup> And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

<sup>22</sup> Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

<sup>23</sup> And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures,

<sup>24</sup> and the oxen and the donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork.

<sup>25</sup> And on every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks running with water, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

<sup>26</sup> Moreover, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day when the LORD

binds up the brokenness of his people,  
and heals the wounds inflicted by his  
blow.

<sup>27</sup> Behold, the name of the LORD comes  
from afar, burning with his anger, and in  
thick rising smoke; his lips are full of fury,  
and his tongue is like a devouring fire;

<sup>28</sup> his breath is like an overflowing  
stream that reaches up to the neck;  
to sift the nations with the sieve of  
destruction, and to place on the jaws of  
the peoples a bridle that leads astray.

<sup>29</sup> You shall have a song as in the night  
when a holy feast is kept, and gladness  
of heart, as when one sets out to the  
sound of the flute to go to the mountain  
of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

<sup>30</sup> And the LORD will cause his majestic  
voice to be heard and the descending  
blow of his arm to be seen, in furious  
anger and a flame of devouring fire, with  
a cloudburst and storm and hailstones.

<sup>31</sup> The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of the LORD, when he strikes with his rod.

<sup>32</sup> And every stroke of the appointed staff that the LORD lays on them will be to the sound of tambourines and lyres. Battling with brandished arm, he will fight with them.

<sup>33</sup> For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it.

**31** <sup>1</sup> Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD!

<sup>2</sup> And yet he is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will

arise against the house of the evildoers and against the helpers of those who work iniquity.

<sup>3</sup> The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together.

<sup>4</sup> For thus the LORD said to me, "As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey, and when a band of shepherds is called out against him is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill.

<sup>5</sup> Like birds hovering, so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it; he will spare and rescue it."

<sup>6</sup> Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> For in that day everyone shall cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which your hands have sinfully made for you.

<sup>8</sup> "And the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of man; and a sword, not of man, shall devour him; and he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be put to forced labor.

<sup>9</sup> His rock shall pass away in terror, and his officers desert the standard in panic," declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

**32** <sup>1</sup> Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice.

<sup>2</sup> Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.

<sup>3</sup> Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention.

<sup>4</sup> The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.

<sup>5</sup> The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable.

<sup>6</sup> For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink.

<sup>7</sup> As for the scoundrel--his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right.

<sup>8</sup> But he who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands.

<sup>9</sup> Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech.

<sup>10</sup> In little more than a year you will shudder, you complacent women; for the grape harvest fails, the fruit harvest will not come.

<sup>11</sup> Tremble, you women who are at ease, shudder, you complacent ones; strip, and make yourselves bare, and tie sackcloth around your waist.

<sup>12</sup> Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine,

<sup>13</sup> for the soil of my people growing up in thorns and briers, yes, for all the joyous houses in the exultant city.

<sup>14</sup> For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks;

<sup>15</sup> until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness

becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.

<sup>16</sup> Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.

<sup>17</sup> And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

<sup>18</sup> My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

<sup>19</sup> And it will hail when the forest falls down, and the city will be utterly laid low.

<sup>20</sup> Happy are you who sow beside all waters, who let the feet of the ox and the donkey range free.

**33** <sup>1</sup> Ah, you destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed, you traitor, whom none has betrayed! When you have ceased to destroy, you will be

destroyed; and when you have finished betraying, they will betray you.

<sup>2</sup> O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.

<sup>3</sup> At the tumultuous noise peoples flee; when you lift yourself up, nations are scattered,

<sup>4</sup> and your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers; as locusts leap, it is leapt upon.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness,

<sup>6</sup> and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

<sup>7</sup> Behold, their heroes cry in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly.

<sup>8</sup> The highways lie waste; the traveler ceases. Covenants are broken; cities are despised; there is no regard for man.

<sup>9</sup> The land mourns and languishes; Lebanon is confounded and withers away; Sharon is like a desert, and Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves.

<sup>10</sup> "Now I will arise," says the LORD, "now I will lift myself up; now I will be exalted.

<sup>11</sup> You conceive chaff; you give birth to stubble; your breath is a fire that will consume you.

<sup>12</sup> And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are burned in the fire."

<sup>13</sup> Hear, you who are far off, what I have done; and you who are near, acknowledge my might.

<sup>14</sup> The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: "Who among us can dwell with the consuming

fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?"

<sup>15</sup> He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil,

<sup>16</sup> he will dwell on the heights; his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks; his bread will be given him; his water will be sure.

<sup>17</sup> Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar.

<sup>18</sup> Your heart will muse on the terror: "Where is he who counted, where is he who weighed the tribute? Where is he who counted the towers?"

<sup>19</sup> You will see no more the insolent people, the people of an obscure speech that you cannot comprehend,

stammering in a tongue that you cannot understand.

<sup>20</sup> Behold Zion, the city of our appointed feasts! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an untroubled habitation, an immovable tent, whose stakes will never be plucked up, nor will any of its cords be broken.

<sup>21</sup> But there the LORD in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass.

<sup>22</sup> For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

<sup>23</sup> Your cords hang loose; they cannot hold the mast firm in its place or keep the sail spread out. Then prey and spoil in abundance will be divided; even the lame will take the prey.

<sup>24</sup> And no inhabitant will say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

**34** <sup>1</sup> Draw near, O nations, to hear, and give attention, O peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it; the world, and all that comes from it.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD is enraged against all the nations, and furious against all their host; he has devoted them to destruction, has given them over for slaughter.

<sup>3</sup> Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise; the mountains shall flow with their blood.

<sup>4</sup> All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.

<sup>5</sup> For my sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; behold, it descends for judgment upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD has a sword; it is sated with blood; it is gorged with fat, with the

blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

<sup>7</sup> Wild oxen shall fall with them, and young steers with the mighty bulls. Their land shall drink its fill of blood, and their soil shall be gorged with fat.

<sup>8</sup> For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

<sup>9</sup> And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch.

<sup>10</sup> Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> But the hawk and the porcupine shall possess it, the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. He shall stretch the line of

confusion over it, and the plumb line of emptiness.

<sup>12</sup> Its nobles--there is no one there to call it a kingdom, and all its princes shall be nothing.

<sup>13</sup> Thorns shall grow over its strongholds, nettles and thistles in its fortresses. It shall be the haunt of jackals, an abode for ostriches.

<sup>14</sup> And wild animals shall meet with hyenas; the wild goat shall cry to his fellow; indeed, there the night bird settles and finds for herself a resting place.

<sup>15</sup> There the owl nests and lays and hatches and gathers her young in her shadow; indeed, there the hawks are gathered, each one with her mate.

<sup>16</sup> Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the

mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them.

<sup>17</sup> He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.

**35** <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the

recompense of God. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall

not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**36** <sup>1</sup> In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.

<sup>2</sup> And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field.

<sup>3</sup> And there came out to him Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

<sup>4</sup> And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours?"

<sup>5</sup> Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me?"

<sup>6</sup> Behold, you are trusting in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

<sup>7</sup> But if you say to me, "We trust in the LORD our God," is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar"?"

<sup>8</sup> Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them.

<sup>9</sup> How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

<sup>10</sup> Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land and destroy it."

<sup>11</sup> Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall."

<sup>12</sup> But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?"

<sup>13</sup> Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of

Judah: "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria!

<sup>14</sup> Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you.

<sup>15</sup> Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us. This city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

<sup>16</sup> Do not listen to Hezekiah. For thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern,

<sup>17</sup> until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

<sup>18</sup> Beware lest Hezekiah mislead you by saying, "The LORD will deliver us." Has

any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

<sup>19</sup> Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand?

<sup>20</sup> Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?"

<sup>21</sup> But they were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him."

<sup>22</sup> Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

**37** <sup>1</sup> As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered

himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz.

<sup>3</sup> They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth.

<sup>4</sup> It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'"

<sup>5</sup> When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah,

<sup>6</sup> Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the young men of the king of Assyria have reviled me.

<sup>7</sup> Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'"

<sup>8</sup> The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lachish.

<sup>9</sup> Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, "He has set out to fight against you." And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

<sup>10</sup> "Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.

<sup>11</sup> Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered?

<sup>12</sup> Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?

<sup>13</sup> Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?"

<sup>14</sup> Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD:

<sup>16</sup> "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the

kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.

<sup>17</sup> Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

<sup>18</sup> Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands,

<sup>19</sup> and have cast their gods into the fire. For they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed.

<sup>20</sup> So now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the LORD."

<sup>21</sup> Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria,

<sup>22</sup> this is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him: "She despises you, she scorns you-- the virgin daughter of Zion; she wags her head behind you-- the daughter of Jerusalem.

<sup>23</sup> "Whom have you mocked and reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes to the heights? Against the Holy One of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> By your servants you have mocked the Lord, and you have said, With my many chariots I have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon, to cut down its tallest cedars, its choicest cypresses, to come to its remotest height, its most fruitful forest.

<sup>25</sup> I dug wells and drank waters, to dry up with the sole of my foot all the streams of Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> "Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass, that

you should make fortified cities crash into heaps of ruins,

<sup>27</sup> while their inhabitants, shorn of strength, are dismayed and confounded, and have become like plants of the field and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops, blighted before it is grown.

<sup>28</sup> "'I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me.

<sup>29</sup> Because you have raged against me and your complacency has come to my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came.'

<sup>30</sup> "And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.

<sup>31</sup> And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

<sup>32</sup> For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

<sup>33</sup> "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it.

<sup>34</sup> By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD.

<sup>35</sup> For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David."

<sup>36</sup> And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early

in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

<sup>37</sup> Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh.

<sup>38</sup> And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword. And after they escaped into the land of Ararat, Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

**38** <sup>1</sup> In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die, you shall not recover."

<sup>2</sup> Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,

<sup>3</sup> and said, "Please, O LORD, remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and

have done what is good in your sight."  
And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to  
Isaiah:

<sup>5</sup> "Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says  
the LORD, the God of David your father: I  
have heard your prayer; I have seen your  
tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to  
your life.

<sup>6</sup> I will deliver you and this city out of  
the hand of the king of Assyria, and will  
defend this city.

<sup>7</sup> "This shall be the sign to you from the  
LORD, that the LORD will do this thing  
that he has promised:

<sup>8</sup> Behold, I will make the shadow cast  
by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz  
turn back ten steps." So the sun turned  
back on the dial the ten steps by which it  
had declined.

<sup>9</sup> A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, after he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness:

<sup>10</sup> I said, In the middle of my days I must depart; I am consigned to the gates of Sheol for the rest of my years.

<sup>11</sup> I said, I shall not see the LORD, the LORD in the land of the living; I shall look on man no more among the inhabitants of the world.

<sup>12</sup> My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me like a shepherd's tent; like a weaver I have rolled up my life; he cuts me off from the loom; from day to night you bring me to an end;

<sup>13</sup> I calmed myself until morning; like a lion he breaks all my bones; from day to night you bring me to an end.

<sup>14</sup> Like a swallow or a crane I chirp; I moan like a dove. My eyes are weary with looking upward. O Lord, I am oppressed; be my pledge of safety!

<sup>15</sup> What shall I say? For he has spoken to me, and he himself has done it. I walk slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul.

<sup>16</sup> O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh restore me to health and make me live!

<sup>17</sup> Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

<sup>18</sup> For Sheol does not thank you; death does not praise you; those who go down to the pit do not hope for your faithfulness.

<sup>19</sup> The living, the living, he thanks you, as I do this day; the father makes known to the children your faithfulness.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD will save me, and we will play my music on stringed instruments

all the days of our lives, at the house of the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil, that he may recover."

<sup>22</sup> Hezekiah also had said, "What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?"

**39** <sup>1</sup> At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent envoys with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered.

<sup>2</sup> And Hezekiah welcomed them gladly. And he showed them his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his whole armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.

<sup>3</sup> Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did

these men say? And from where did they come to you?" Hezekiah said, "They have come to me from a far country, from Babylon."

<sup>4</sup> He said, "What have they seen in your house?" Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house. There is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them."

<sup>5</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

<sup>6</sup> Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

<sup>8</sup> Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "There will be peace and security in my days."

**40** <sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it

together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he

will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

<sup>13</sup> Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?

<sup>14</sup> Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

<sup>15</sup> Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

<sup>16</sup> Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

<sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

<sup>19</sup> An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains.

<sup>20</sup> He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the

heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the

LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**41** <sup>1</sup> Listen to me in silence, O coastlands; let the peoples renew their strength; let them approach, then let them speak; let us together draw near for judgment.

<sup>2</sup> Who stirred up one from the east whom victory meets at every step? He gives up nations before him, so that he tramples kings underfoot; he makes them like dust with his sword, like driven stubble with his bow.

<sup>3</sup> He pursues them and passes on safely, by paths his feet have not trod.

<sup>4</sup> Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

<sup>5</sup> The coastlands have seen and are afraid; the ends of the earth tremble; they have drawn near and come.

<sup>6</sup> Everyone helps his neighbor and says to his brother, "Be strong!"

<sup>7</sup> The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, "It is good"; and

they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved.

<sup>8</sup> But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

<sup>9</sup> you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off";

<sup>10</sup> fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

<sup>11</sup> Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.

<sup>12</sup> You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them;

those who war against you shall be as nothing at all.

<sup>13</sup> For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

<sup>14</sup> Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff;

<sup>16</sup> you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

<sup>17</sup> When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD

will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

<sup>18</sup> I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

<sup>19</sup> I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together,

<sup>20</sup> that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

<sup>21</sup> Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.

<sup>22</sup> Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come.

<sup>23</sup> Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified.

<sup>24</sup> Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you.

<sup>25</sup> I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, from the rising of the sun, and he shall call upon my name; he shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay.

<sup>26</sup> Who declared it from the beginning, that we might know, and beforehand, that we might say, "He is right"? There was none who declared it, none who proclaimed, none who heard your words.

<sup>27</sup> I was the first to say to Zion, "Behold, here they are!" and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good news.

<sup>28</sup> But when I look there is no one; among these there is no counselor who, when I ask, gives an answer.

<sup>29</sup> Behold, they are all a delusion; their works are nothing; their metal images are empty wind.

**42** <sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

<sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

<sup>10</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you

who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

<sup>11</sup> Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

<sup>12</sup> Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

<sup>14</sup> For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup> I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup> And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

<sup>17</sup> They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

<sup>18</sup> Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!

<sup>19</sup> Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup> He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup> The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

<sup>22</sup> But this is a people plundered and looted; they are all of them trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; they have become plunder with none to rescue, spoil with none to say, "Restore!"

<sup>23</sup> Who among you will give ear to this, will attend and listen for the time to come?

<sup>24</sup> Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey?

<sup>25</sup> So he poured on him the heat of his anger and the might of battle; it set him on fire all around, but he did not understand; it burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.

**43** <sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for

I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my

sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

<sup>8</sup> Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears!

<sup>9</sup> All the nations gather together, and the peoples assemble. Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right, and let them hear and say, It is true.

<sup>10</sup> "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

<sup>11</sup> I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.

<sup>12</sup> I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God.

<sup>13</sup> Also henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?"

<sup>14</sup> Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice.

<sup>15</sup> I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup> who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup> "Remember not the former things,  
nor consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, I am doing a new thing; now  
it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and  
rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The wild beasts will honor me, the  
jackals and the ostriches, for I give water  
in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to  
give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
that they might declare my praise.

<sup>22</sup> "Yet you did not call upon me, O  
Jacob; but you have been weary of me,  
O Israel!

<sup>23</sup> You have not brought me your sheep  
for burnt offerings, or honored me with  
your sacrifices. I have not burdened  
you with offerings, or wearied you with  
frankincense.

<sup>24</sup> You have not bought me sweet  
cane with money, or satisfied me with

the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities.

<sup>25</sup> "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

<sup>26</sup> Put me in remembrance; let us argue together; set forth your case, that you may be proved right.

<sup>27</sup> Your first father sinned, and your mediators transgressed against me.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary, and deliver Jacob to utter destruction and Israel to reviling.

**44** <sup>1</sup> "But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen!

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

<sup>3</sup> For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

<sup>4</sup> They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.

<sup>5</sup> This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and name himself by the name of Israel."

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup> Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

<sup>8</sup> Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you

are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

<sup>9</sup> All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame.

<sup>10</sup> Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing?

<sup>11</sup> Behold, all his companions shall be put to shame, and the craftsmen are only human. Let them all assemble, let them stand forth. They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together.

<sup>12</sup> The ironsmith takes a cutting tool and works it over the coals. He fashions it with hammers and works it with his strong arm. He becomes hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint.

<sup>13</sup> The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass.

He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house.

<sup>14</sup> He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it.

<sup>15</sup> Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it.

<sup>16</sup> Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!"

<sup>17</sup> And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"

<sup>18</sup> They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand.

<sup>19</sup> No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"

<sup>20</sup> He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"

<sup>21</sup> Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

<sup>22</sup> I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

<sup>23</sup> Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

<sup>24</sup> Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

<sup>25</sup> who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish,

<sup>26</sup> who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,' and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins';

<sup>27</sup> who says to the deep, 'Be dry; I will dry up your rivers';

<sup>28</sup> who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

**45** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:

<sup>2</sup> "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

<sup>3</sup> I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup> For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.

<sup>5</sup> I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me,

<sup>6</sup> that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.

<sup>8</sup> "Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the LORD have created it.

<sup>9</sup> "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen

pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'?

<sup>10</sup> Woe to him who says to a father, 'What are you begetting?' or to a woman, 'With what are you in labor?'"

<sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: "Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?"

<sup>12</sup> I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.

<sup>13</sup> I have stirred him up in righteousness, and I will make all his ways level; he shall build my city and set my exiles free, not for price or reward," says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>14</sup> Thus says the LORD: "The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush,

and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you. They will plead with you, saying: 'Surely God is in you, and there is no other, no god besides him.'"

<sup>15</sup> Truly, you are a God who hides yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior.

<sup>16</sup> All of them are put to shame and confounded; the makers of idols go in confusion together.

<sup>17</sup> But Israel is saved by the LORD with everlasting salvation; you shall not be put to shame or confounded to all eternity.

<sup>18</sup> For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

<sup>19</sup> I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain.' I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right.

<sup>20</sup> "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save.

<sup>21</sup> Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

<sup>22</sup> "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every

knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

<sup>24</sup> "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him.

<sup>25</sup> In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory."

**46** <sup>1</sup> Bel bows down; Nebo stoops; their idols are on beasts and livestock; these things you carry are borne as burdens on weary beasts.

<sup>2</sup> They stoop; they bow down together; they cannot save the burden, but themselves go into captivity.

<sup>3</sup> "Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb;

<sup>4</sup> even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

<sup>5</sup> "To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike?

<sup>6</sup> Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship!

<sup>7</sup> They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble.

<sup>8</sup> "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,

<sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

<sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

<sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

<sup>12</sup> "Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness:

<sup>13</sup> I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory."

**47** <sup>1</sup> Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate.

<sup>2</sup> Take the millstones and grind flour, put off your veil, strip off your robe, uncover your legs, pass through the rivers.

<sup>3</sup> Your nakedness shall be uncovered, and your disgrace shall be seen. I will take vengeance, and I will spare no one.

<sup>4</sup> Our Redeemer--the LORD of hosts is his name-- is the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms.

<sup>6</sup> I was angry with my people; I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy.

<sup>7</sup> You said, "I shall be mistress forever," so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end.

<sup>8</sup> Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children":

<sup>9</sup> These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your

many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments.

<sup>10</sup> You felt secure in your wickedness, you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me."

<sup>11</sup> But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing.

<sup>12</sup> Stand fast in your enchantments and your many sorceries, with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you may be able to succeed; perhaps you may inspire terror.

<sup>13</sup> You are wearied with your many counsels; let them stand forth and save you, those who divide the heavens, who

gaze at the stars, who at the new moons make known what shall come upon you.

<sup>14</sup> Behold, they are like stubble; the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. No coal for warming oneself is this, no fire to sit before!

<sup>15</sup> Such to you are those with whom you have labored, who have done business with you from your youth; they wander about each in his own direction; there is no one to save you.

**48** <sup>1</sup> Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and who came from the waters of Judah, who swear by the name of the LORD and confess the God of Israel, but not in truth or right.

<sup>2</sup> For they call themselves after the holy city, and stay themselves on the God of Israel; the LORD of hosts is his name.

<sup>3</sup> "The former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth and I announced them; then suddenly I did them and they came to pass.

<sup>4</sup> Because I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead brass,

<sup>5</sup> I declared them to you from of old, before they came to pass I announced them to you, lest you should say, 'My idol did them, my carved image and my metal image commanded them.'

<sup>6</sup> "You have heard; now see all this; and will you not declare it? From this time forth I announce to you new things, hidden things that you have not known.

<sup>7</sup> They are created now, not long ago; before today you have never heard of them, lest you should say, 'Behold, I knew them.'

<sup>8</sup> You have never heard, you have never known, from of old your ear has not

been opened. For I knew that you would surely deal treacherously, and that from before birth you were called a rebel.

<sup>9</sup> "For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off.

<sup>10</sup> Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.

<sup>11</sup> For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

<sup>12</sup> "Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.

<sup>13</sup> My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.

<sup>14</sup> "Assemble, all of you, and listen! who among them has declared these things?

The LORD loves him; he shall perform his purpose on Babylon, and his arm shall be against the Chaldeans.

<sup>15</sup> I, even I, have spoken and called him; I have brought him, and he will prosper in his way.

<sup>16</sup> Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there." And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit.

<sup>17</sup> Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.

<sup>18</sup> Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;

<sup>19</sup> your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its

grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me."

<sup>20</sup> Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, "The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!"

<sup>21</sup> They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and the water gushed out.

<sup>22</sup> "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."

**49** <sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him-- for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength--

<sup>6</sup> he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply

despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the LORD: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,

<sup>9</sup> saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

<sup>10</sup> they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

<sup>11</sup> And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up.

<sup>12</sup> Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene."

<sup>13</sup> Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! for the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

<sup>14</sup> But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me."

<sup>15</sup> "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

<sup>16</sup> Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

<sup>17</sup> Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you.

<sup>18</sup> Lift up your eyes around and see; they all gather, they come to you. As I live, declares the LORD, you shall put them all on as an ornament; you shall bind them on as a bride does.

<sup>19</sup> "Surely your waste and your desolate places and your devastated land-- surely now you will be too narrow for your inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up will be far away.

<sup>20</sup> The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears: 'The place is too narrow for me; make room for me to dwell in.'

<sup>21</sup> Then you will say in your heart: 'Who has borne me these? I was bereaved and barren, exiled and put away, but who has brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; from where have these come?'"

<sup>22</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.

<sup>23</sup> Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame."

<sup>24</sup> Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?

<sup>25</sup> For thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.

<sup>26</sup> I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am the LORD your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

**50** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Where is your mother's certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

<sup>2</sup> Why, when I came, was there no man; why, when I called, was there no one to answer? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.

<sup>3</sup> I clothe the heavens with blackness and make sackcloth their covering."

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up

together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.

<sup>9</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

<sup>10</sup> Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

<sup>11</sup> Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

**51** <sup>1</sup> "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup> "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.

<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they

who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

<sup>7</sup> "Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.

<sup>8</sup> For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations."

<sup>9</sup> Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, that pierced the dragon?

<sup>10</sup> Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over?

<sup>11</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

<sup>12</sup> "I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass,

<sup>13</sup> and have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy? And where is the wrath of the oppressor?

<sup>14</sup> He who is bowed down shall speedily be released; he shall not die and go down to the pit, neither shall his bread be lacking.

<sup>15</sup> I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar-- the LORD of hosts is his name.

<sup>16</sup> And I have put my words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of my hand, establishing the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, 'You are my people.'"

<sup>17</sup> Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.

<sup>18</sup> There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne; there is none to take her by the hand among all the sons she has brought up.

<sup>19</sup> These two things have happened to you-- who will console you?-- devastation and destruction, famine and sword; who will comfort you?

<sup>20</sup> Your sons have fainted; they lie at the head of every street like an antelope in a net; they are full of the wrath of the LORD, the rebuke of your God.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore hear this, you who are afflicted, who are drunk, but not with wine:

<sup>22</sup> Thus says your Lord, the LORD, your God who pleads the cause of his people: "Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering; the bowl of my wrath you shall drink no more;

<sup>23</sup> and I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who have said to you, 'Bow down, that we may pass over'; and you have made your back like the ground and like the street for them to pass over."

**52** <sup>1</sup> Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come

into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.

<sup>2</sup> Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be seated, O Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the LORD: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money."

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD: "My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore what have I here," declares the LORD, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the LORD, "and continually all the day my name is despised.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I."

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen--they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

<sup>11</sup> Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

<sup>13</sup> Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

<sup>14</sup> As many were astonished at you-- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind--

<sup>15</sup> so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

**53** <sup>1</sup> Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that

we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers  
is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was  
taken away; and as for his generation,  
who considered that he was cut off out  
of the land of the living, stricken for the  
transgression of my people?

<sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the  
wicked and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence, and  
there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to  
crush him; he has put him to grief; when  
his soul makes an offering for sin, he  
shall see his offspring; he shall prolong  
his days; the will of the LORD shall  
prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall  
see and be satisfied; by his knowledge  
shall the righteous one, my servant,

make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

**54** <sup>1</sup> "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

<sup>3</sup> For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will

possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.

<sup>4</sup> "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

<sup>5</sup> For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.

<sup>7</sup> For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you.

<sup>8</sup> In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.

<sup>9</sup> "This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you.

<sup>10</sup> For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

<sup>11</sup> "O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires.

<sup>12</sup> I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones.

<sup>13</sup> All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.

<sup>14</sup> In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

<sup>15</sup> If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you.

<sup>16</sup> Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy;

<sup>17</sup> no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD."

**55** <sup>1</sup> "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come,

buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

**56** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil."

<sup>3</sup> Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people";

and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree."

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant,

<sup>5</sup> I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

<sup>6</sup> "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant--

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

<sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

<sup>9</sup> All you beasts of the field, come to devour-- all you beasts in the forest.

<sup>10</sup> His watchmen are blind; they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber.

<sup>11</sup> The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.

<sup>12</sup> "Come," they say, "let me get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure."

**57** <sup>1</sup> The righteous man perishes,  
and no one lays it to heart;  
devout men are taken away, while no  
one understands. For the righteous man  
is taken away from calamity;

<sup>2</sup> he enters into peace; they rest in their  
beds who walk in their uprightness.

<sup>3</sup> But you, draw near, sons of the  
sorceress, offspring of the adulterer and  
the loose woman.

<sup>4</sup> Whom are you mocking? Against  
whom do you open your mouth wide  
and stick out your tongue? Are you not  
children of transgression, the offspring  
of deceit,

<sup>5</sup> you who burn with lust among the  
oaks, under every green tree, who  
slaughter your children in the valleys,  
under the clefts of the rocks?

<sup>6</sup> Among the smooth stones of the  
valley is your portion; they, they, are  
your lot; to them you have poured out a

drink offering, you have brought a grain offering. Shall I relent for these things?

<sup>7</sup> On a high and lofty mountain you have set your bed, and there you went up to offer sacrifice.

<sup>8</sup> Behind the door and the doorpost you have set up your memorial; for, deserting me, you have uncovered your bed, you have gone up to it, you have made it wide; and you have made a covenant for yourself with them, you have loved their bed, you have looked on nakedness.

<sup>9</sup> You journeyed to the king with oil and multiplied your perfumes; you sent your envoys far off, and sent down even to Sheol.

<sup>10</sup> You were wearied with the length of your way, but you did not say, "It is hopeless"; you found new life for your strength, and so you were not faint.

<sup>11</sup> Whom did you dread and fear, so that you lied, and did not remember me, did not lay it to heart? Have I not held my peace, even for a long time, and you do not fear me?

<sup>12</sup> I will declare your righteousness and your deeds, but they will not profit you.

<sup>13</sup> When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you! The wind will carry them off, a breath will take them away. But he who takes refuge in me shall possess the land and shall inherit my holy mountain.

<sup>14</sup> And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way."

<sup>15</sup> For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive

the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

<sup>16</sup> For I will not contend forever, nor will I always be angry; for the spirit would grow faint before me, and the breath of life that I made.

<sup>17</sup> Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was angry, I struck him; I hid my face and was angry, but he went on backsliding in the way of his own heart.

<sup>18</sup> I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners,

<sup>19</sup> creating the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and to the near," says the LORD, "and I will heal him.

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt.

<sup>21</sup> There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

**58** <sup>1</sup> "Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup> 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow

down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

<sup>8</sup> Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke

from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

<sup>10</sup> if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

<sup>12</sup> And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

<sup>13</sup> "If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD

honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;

<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**59** <sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

<sup>2</sup> but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

<sup>3</sup> For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.

<sup>4</sup> No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty

pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.

<sup>5</sup> They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched.

<sup>6</sup> Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands.

<sup>7</sup> Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways.

<sup>8</sup> The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; we

hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

<sup>10</sup> We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among those in full vigor we are like dead men.

<sup>11</sup> We all growl like bears; we moan and moan like doves; we hope for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us.

<sup>12</sup> For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:

<sup>13</sup> transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

<sup>14</sup> Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth

has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter.

<sup>15</sup> Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.

<sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him.

<sup>17</sup> He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

<sup>18</sup> According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment.

<sup>19</sup> So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from

the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives.

<sup>20</sup> "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore."

**60** <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up

with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.

<sup>8</sup> Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows?

<sup>9</sup> For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful.

<sup>10</sup> Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in my wrath I struck you, but in my favor I have had mercy on you.

<sup>11</sup> Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.

<sup>12</sup> For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste.

<sup>13</sup> The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

<sup>14</sup> The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age.

<sup>16</sup> You shall suck the milk of nations; you shall nurse at the breast of kings; and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

<sup>17</sup> Instead of bronze I will bring gold, and instead of iron I will bring silver; instead

of wood, bronze, instead of stones, iron. I will make your overseers peace and your taskmasters righteousness.

<sup>18</sup> Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.

<sup>19</sup> The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

<sup>20</sup> Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

<sup>21</sup> Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified.

<sup>22</sup> The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.

**61** <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>5</sup> Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;

<sup>6</sup> but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.

<sup>7</sup> Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

**62** <sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness

goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

<sup>4</sup> You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.

<sup>5</sup> For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

<sup>6</sup> On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night

they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest,  
<sup>7</sup> and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored;

<sup>9</sup> but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary."

<sup>10</sup> Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes;

behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

<sup>12</sup> And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

**63** <sup>1</sup> Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

<sup>2</sup> Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?

<sup>3</sup> "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.

<sup>4</sup> For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come.

<sup>5</sup> I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me.

<sup>6</sup> I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup> In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

<sup>10</sup> But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

<sup>11</sup> Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

<sup>12</sup> who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name,

<sup>13</sup> who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

<sup>14</sup> Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

<sup>15</sup> Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and beautiful habitation. Where are your zeal and your might? The stirring of your inner parts and your compassion are held back from me.

<sup>16</sup> For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

<sup>17</sup> O LORD, why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.

<sup>18</sup> Your holy people held possession for a little while; our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary.

<sup>19</sup> We have become like those over whom you have never ruled, like those who are not called by your name.

**64** <sup>1</sup> Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence--

<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup> You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were

angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

<sup>8</sup> But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup> Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

<sup>10</sup> Your holy cities have become a wilderness; Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.

<sup>11</sup> Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you, has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins.

<sup>12</sup> Will you restrain yourself at these things, O LORD? Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?

**65** <sup>1</sup> I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here am I, here am I," to a nation that was not called by my name.

<sup>2</sup> I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;

<sup>3</sup> a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks;

<sup>4</sup> who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;

<sup>5</sup> who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, it is written before me: "I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their bosom

<sup>7</sup> both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they made offerings on the mountains and insulted me on the hills, I will measure into their bosom payment for their former deeds."

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,' so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all.

<sup>9</sup> I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains; my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there.

<sup>10</sup> Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for my people who have sought me.

<sup>11</sup> But you who forsake the LORD, who forget my holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny,

<sup>12</sup> I will destine you to the sword, and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter, because, when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not listen, but you did what was evil in my eyes and chose what I did not delight in."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty;

behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame;

<sup>14</sup> behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart and shall wail for breaking of spirit.

<sup>15</sup> You shall leave your name to my chosen for a curse, and the Lord GOD will put you to death, but his servants he will call by another name.

<sup>16</sup> So that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes.

<sup>17</sup> "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create

Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

<sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be

the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

**66** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?

<sup>2</sup> All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

<sup>3</sup> "He who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a man; he who sacrifices a

lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; he who presents a grain offering, like one who offers pig's blood; he who makes a memorial offering of frankincense, like one who blesses an idol. These have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations;

<sup>4</sup> I also will choose harsh treatment for them and bring their fears upon them, because when I called, no one answered, when I spoke they did not listen; but they did what was evil in my eyes and chose that in which I did not delight."

<sup>5</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word: "Your brothers who hate you and cast you out for my name's sake have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy'; but it is they who shall be put to shame.

<sup>6</sup> "The sound of an uproar from the city! A sound from the temple! The sound of

the LORD, rendering recompense to his enemies!

<sup>7</sup> "Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son.

<sup>8</sup> Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children.

<sup>9</sup> Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the LORD; "shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?" says your God.

<sup>10</sup> "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;

<sup>11</sup> that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance."

<sup>12</sup> For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.

<sup>13</sup> As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.

<sup>15</sup> "For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

<sup>16</sup> For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many.

<sup>17</sup> "Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the midst, eating pig's flesh and the abomination and mice, shall come to an end together, declares the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory,

<sup>19</sup> and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.

<sup>20</sup> And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the

LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup> From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.

<sup>24</sup> "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

# Jeremiah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,

<sup>2</sup> to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

<sup>3</sup> It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

<sup>11</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch."

<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

<sup>13</sup> The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north."

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Out of the north disaster shall be let loose upon all the inhabitants of the land."

<sup>15</sup> For behold, I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, declares the LORD, and they shall come, and every one shall set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its walls all around and against all the cities of Judah.

<sup>16</sup> And I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking me. They have made offerings to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands.

<sup>17</sup> But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.

<sup>18</sup> And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land.

<sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."

**2** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, "I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.

<sup>3</sup> Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it

incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the LORD."

<sup>4</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD: "What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?"

<sup>6</sup> They did not say, 'Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?'

<sup>7</sup> And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.

<sup>8</sup> The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the

law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

<sup>9</sup> "Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend.

<sup>10</sup> For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing.

<sup>11</sup> Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.

<sup>12</sup> Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD,

<sup>13</sup> for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

<sup>14</sup> "Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn servant? Why then has he become a prey?

<sup>15</sup> The lions have roared against him; they have roared loudly. They have made his land a waste; his cities are in ruins, without inhabitant.

<sup>16</sup> Moreover, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes have shaved the crown of your head.

<sup>17</sup> Have you not brought this upon yourself by forsaking the LORD your God, when he led you in the way?

<sup>18</sup> And now what do you gain by going to Egypt to drink the waters of the Nile? Or what do you gain by going to Assyria to drink the waters of the Euphrates?

<sup>19</sup> Your evil will chastise you, and your apostasy will reprove you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the LORD your God; the fear of me is not in you, declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

<sup>20</sup> "For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; but you said, 'I will not serve.' yes, on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed down like a whore.

<sup>21</sup> Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?

<sup>22</sup> Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>23</sup> How can you say, 'I am not unclean, I have not gone after the Baals'? Look at your way in the valley; know what you have done-- a restless young camel running here and there,

<sup>24</sup> a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? None who seek her

need weary themselves; in her month they will find her.

<sup>25</sup> Keep your feet from going unshod and your throat from thirst. But you said, 'It is hopeless, for I have loved foreigners, and after them I will go.'

<sup>26</sup> "As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed: they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets,

<sup>27</sup> who say to a tree, 'You are my father,' and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.' For they have turned their back to me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they say, 'Arise and save us!'

<sup>28</sup> But where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them arise, if they can save you, in your time of trouble; for as many as your cities are your gods, O Judah.

<sup>29</sup> "Why do you contend with me? You have all transgressed against me, declares the LORD.

<sup>30</sup> In vain have I struck your children; they took no correction; your own sword devoured your prophets like a ravaging lion.

<sup>31</sup> And you, O generation, behold the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land of thick darkness? Why then do my people say, 'We are free, we will come no more to you'?

<sup>32</sup> Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

<sup>33</sup> "How well you direct your course to seek love! So that even to wicked women you have taught your ways.

<sup>34</sup> Also on your skirts is found the lifeblood of the guiltless poor; you did

not find them breaking in. Yet in spite of all these things

<sup>35</sup> you say, 'I am innocent; surely his anger has turned from me.' Behold, I will bring you to judgment for saying, 'I have not sinned.'

<sup>36</sup> How much you go about, changing your way! You shall be put to shame by Egypt as you were put to shame by Assyria.

<sup>37</sup> From it too you will come away with your hands on your head, for the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust, and you will not prosper by them.

**3**<sup>1</sup> "If a man divorces his wife and she goes from him and becomes another man's wife, will he return to her? Would not that land be greatly polluted? You have played the whore with many lovers; and would you return to me? declares the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Lift up your eyes to the bare heights, and see! Where have you not been ravished? By the waysides you have sat awaiting lovers like an Arab in the wilderness. You have polluted the land with your vile whoredom.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come; yet you have the forehead of a whore; you refuse to be ashamed.

<sup>4</sup> Have you not just now called to me, 'My father, you are the friend of my youth--

<sup>5</sup> will he be angry forever, will he be indignant to the end?' Behold, you have spoken, but you have done all the evil that you could."

<sup>6</sup> The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under

every green tree, and there played the whore?

<sup>7</sup> And I thought, 'After she has done all this she will return to me,' but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

<sup>8</sup> She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore.

<sup>9</sup> Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree.

<sup>10</sup> Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares the LORD."

<sup>11</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.

<sup>12</sup> Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever.

<sup>13</sup> Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

<sup>15</sup> "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

<sup>16</sup> And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall no more

say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again.

<sup>17</sup> At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.

<sup>18</sup> In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.

<sup>19</sup> "I said How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me.

<sup>20</sup> Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD."

<sup>21</sup> A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons because they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the LORD their God.

<sup>22</sup> "Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness." "Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God.

<sup>23</sup> Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> "But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.

<sup>25</sup> Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to

this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."

**4**<sup>1</sup> "If you return, O Israel, declares the LORD, to me you should return. If you remove your detestable things from my presence, and do not waver,

<sup>2</sup> and if you swear, 'As the LORD lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory."

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

<sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds."

<sup>5</sup> Declare in Judah, and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say, "Blow the trumpet

through the land; cry aloud and say, 'Assemble, and let us go into the fortified cities!'

<sup>6</sup> Raise a standard toward Zion, flee for safety, stay not, for I bring disaster from the north, and great destruction.

<sup>7</sup> A lion has gone up from his thicket, a destroyer of nations has set out; he has gone out from his place to make your land a waste; your cities will be ruins without inhabitant.

<sup>8</sup> For this put on sackcloth, lament, and wail, for the fierce anger of the LORD has not turned back from us."

<sup>9</sup> "In that day, declares the LORD, courage shall fail both king and officials. The priests shall be appalled and the prophets astounded."

<sup>10</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, surely you have utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'It shall be well with

you,' whereas the sword has reached their very life."

<sup>11</sup> At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, "A hot wind from the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse,

<sup>12</sup> a wind too full for this comes for me. Now it is I who speak in judgment upon them."

<sup>13</sup> Behold, he comes up like clouds; his chariots like the whirlwind; his horses are swifter than eagles-- woe to us, for we are ruined!

<sup>14</sup> O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil, that you may be saved. How long shall your wicked thoughts lodge within you?

<sup>15</sup> For a voice declares from Dan and proclaims trouble from Mount Ephraim.

<sup>16</sup> Warn the nations that he is coming; announce to Jerusalem, "Besiegers come

from a distant land; they shout against the cities of Judah.

<sup>17</sup> Like keepers of a field are they against her all around, because she has rebelled against me, declares the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> Your ways and your deeds have brought this upon you. This is your doom, and it is bitter; it has reached your very heart."

<sup>19</sup> My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent, for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

<sup>20</sup> Crash follows hard on crash; the whole land is laid waste. Suddenly my tents are laid waste, my curtains in a moment.

<sup>21</sup> How long must I see the standard and hear the sound of the trumpet?

<sup>22</sup> "For my people are foolish; they know me not; they are stupid children;

they have no understanding. They are 'wise'--in doing evil! But how to do good they know not."

<sup>23</sup> I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.

<sup>24</sup> I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.

<sup>25</sup> I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the air had fled.

<sup>26</sup> I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

<sup>27</sup> For thus says the LORD, "The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

<sup>28</sup> "For this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above be dark; for I have spoken; I have purposed; I have not relented, nor will I turn back."

<sup>29</sup> At the noise of horseman and archer every city takes to flight; they enter thickets; they climb among rocks; all the cities are forsaken, and no man dwells in them.

<sup>30</sup> And you, O desolate one, what do you mean that you dress in scarlet, that you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, that you enlarge your eyes with paint? In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life.

<sup>31</sup> For I heard a cry as of a woman in labor, anguish as of one giving birth to her first child, the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before murderers."

**5** <sup>1</sup> Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look and take note! Search her squares to see if you can find a man, one who does justice and seeks truth, that I may pardon her.

<sup>2</sup> Though they say, "As the LORD lives," yet they swear falsely.

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, do not your eyes look for truth? You have struck them down, but they felt no anguish; you have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent.

<sup>4</sup> Then I said, "These are only the poor; they have no sense; for they do not know the way of the LORD, the justice of their God.

<sup>5</sup> I will go to the great and will speak to them, for they know the way of the LORD, the justice of their God." But they all alike had broken the yoke; they had burst the bonds.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore a lion from the forest shall strike them down; a wolf from the desert shall devastate them. A leopard is watching their cities; everyone who

goes out of them shall be torn in pieces, because their transgressions are many, their apostasies are great.

<sup>7</sup> "How can I pardon you? Your children have forsaken me and have sworn by those who are no gods. When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of whores.

<sup>8</sup> They were well-fed, lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife.

<sup>9</sup> Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the LORD; and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?

<sup>10</sup> "Go up through her vine rows and destroy, but make not a full end; strip away her branches, for they are not the LORD's.

<sup>11</sup> For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly treacherous to me, declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> They have spoken falsely of the LORD and have said, 'He will do nothing; no disaster will come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine.

<sup>13</sup> The prophets will become wind; the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them!"

<sup>14</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: "Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them.

<sup>15</sup> Behold, I am bringing against you a nation from afar, O house of Israel, declares the LORD. It is an enduring nation; it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say.

<sup>16</sup> Their quiver is like an open tomb; they are all mighty warriors.

<sup>17</sup> They shall eat up your harvest and your food; they shall eat up your sons

and your daughters; they shall eat up your flocks and your herds; they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; your fortified cities in which you trust they shall beat down with the sword."

<sup>18</sup> "But even in those days, declares the LORD, I will not make a full end of you.

<sup>19</sup> And when your people say, 'Why has the LORD our God done all these things to us?' you shall say to them, 'As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve foreigners in a land that is not yours.'"

<sup>20</sup> Declare this in the house of Jacob; proclaim it in Judah:

<sup>21</sup> "Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not.

<sup>22</sup> Do you not fear me? declares the LORD; Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot

pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it.

<sup>23</sup> But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away.

<sup>24</sup> They do not say in their hearts, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.'

<sup>25</sup> Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you.

<sup>26</sup> For wicked men are found among my people; they lurk like fowlers lying in wait. They set a trap; they catch men.

<sup>27</sup> Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; therefore they have become great and rich;

<sup>28</sup> they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of evil; they

judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy.

<sup>29</sup> Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the LORD, and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?"

<sup>30</sup> An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land:

<sup>31</sup> the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?

**6** <sup>1</sup> Flee for safety, O people of Benjamin, from the midst of Jerusalem! Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and raise a signal on Beth-haccherem, for disaster looms out of the north, and great destruction.

<sup>2</sup> The lovely and delicately bred I will destroy, the daughter of Zion.

<sup>3</sup> Shepherds with their flocks shall come against her; they shall pitch their tents around her; they shall pasture, each in his place.

<sup>4</sup> "Prepare war against her; arise, and let us attack at noon! Woe to us, for the day declines, for the shadows of evening lengthen!

<sup>5</sup> Arise, and let us attack by night and destroy her palaces!"

<sup>6</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts: "Cut down her trees; cast up a siege mound against Jerusalem. This is the city that must be punished; there is nothing but oppression within her.

<sup>7</sup> As a well keeps its water fresh, so she keeps fresh her evil; violence and destruction are heard within her; sickness and wounds are ever before me.

<sup>8</sup> Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I turn from you in disgust, lest I make you a desolation, an uninhabited land."

<sup>9</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They shall glean thoroughly as a vine the remnant of Israel; like a grape-gatherer pass your hand again over its branches."

<sup>10</sup> To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ears are uncircumcised, they cannot listen; behold, the word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary of holding it in. "Pour it out upon the children in the street, and upon the gatherings of young men, also; both husband and wife shall be taken, the elderly and the very aged.

<sup>12</sup> Their houses shall be turned over to others, their fields and wives together, for I will stretch out my hand against the

inhabitants of the land," declares the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> "For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

<sup>14</sup> They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.

<sup>15</sup> Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the LORD.

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

<sup>17</sup> I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not pay attention.'

<sup>18</sup> Therefore hear, O nations, and know, O congregation, what will happen to them.

<sup>19</sup> Hear, O earth; behold, I am bringing disaster upon this people, the fruit of their devices, because they have not paid attention to my words; and as for my law, they have rejected it.

<sup>20</sup> What use to me is frankincense that comes from Sheba, or sweet cane from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices pleasing to me.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will lay before this people stumbling blocks against which they shall stumble; fathers and sons together, neighbor and friend shall perish.'"

<sup>22</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Behold, a people is coming from the north country, a great nation is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth.

<sup>23</sup> They lay hold on bow and javelin; they are cruel and have no mercy; the sound of them is like the roaring sea; they ride on horses, set in array as a man for battle, against you, O daughter of Zion!"

<sup>24</sup> We have heard the report of it; our hands fall helpless; anguish has taken hold of us, pain as of a woman in labor.

<sup>25</sup> Go not out into the field, nor walk on the road, for the enemy has a sword; terror is on every side.

<sup>26</sup> O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.

<sup>27</sup> "I have made you a tester of metals among my people, that you may know and test their ways.

<sup>28</sup> They are all stubbornly rebellious, going about with slanders; they are bronze and iron; all of them act corruptly.

<sup>29</sup> The bellows blow fiercely; the lead is consumed by the fire; in vain the refining goes on, for the wicked are not removed.

<sup>30</sup> Rejected silver they are called, for the LORD has rejected them."

**7** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.

<sup>4</sup> Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.'

<sup>5</sup> "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another,

<sup>6</sup> if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm,

<sup>7</sup> then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.

<sup>8</sup> "Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail.

<sup>9</sup> Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known,

<sup>10</sup> and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'--only to go on doing all these abominations?

<sup>11</sup> Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel.

<sup>13</sup> And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer,

<sup>14</sup> therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.

<sup>15</sup> And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.

<sup>16</sup> "As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you.

<sup>17</sup> Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

<sup>18</sup> The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven. And they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger.

<sup>19</sup> Is it I whom they provoke? declares the LORD. Is it not themselves, to their own shame?

<sup>20</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: behold, my anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place, upon man and beast, upon the trees of the field and

the fruit of the ground; it will burn and not be quenched."

<sup>21</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh.

<sup>22</sup> For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices.

<sup>23</sup> But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'

<sup>24</sup> But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.

<sup>25</sup> From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I

have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day.

<sup>26</sup> Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

<sup>27</sup> "So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you.

<sup>28</sup> And you shall say to them, 'This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.

<sup>29</sup> "'Cut off your hair and cast it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.'

<sup>30</sup> "For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the LORD. They have set their detestable things in the

house that is called by my name, to defile it.

<sup>31</sup> And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.

<sup>32</sup> Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere.

<sup>33</sup> And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away.

<sup>34</sup> And I will silence in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice

of the bride, for the land shall become a waste.

**8**<sup>1</sup> "At that time, declares the LORD, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be brought out of their tombs.

<sup>2</sup> And they shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have gone after, and which they have sought and worshiped. And they shall not be gathered or buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground.

<sup>3</sup> Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, declares the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup> "You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD: When men fall, do they not rise again? If one turns away, does he not return?

<sup>5</sup> Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit; they refuse to return.

<sup>6</sup> I have paid attention and listened, but they have not spoken rightly; no man relents of his evil, saying, 'What have I done?' Everyone turns to his own course, like a horse plunging headlong into battle.

<sup>7</sup> Even the stork in the heavens knows her times, and the turtledove, swallow, and crane keep the time of their coming, but my people know not the rules of the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> "How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.

<sup>9</sup> The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, so what wisdom is in them?

<sup>10</sup> Therefore I will give their wives to others and their fields to conquerors, because from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

<sup>11</sup> They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.

<sup>12</sup> Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among the fallen; when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> When I would gather them, declares the LORD, there are no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree; even the

leaves are withered, and what I gave them has passed away from them."

<sup>14</sup> Why do we sit still? Gather together; let us go into the fortified cities and perish there, for the LORD our God has doomed us to perish and has given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror.

<sup>16</sup> "The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan; at the sound of the neighing of their stallions the whole land quakes. They come and devour the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it.

<sup>17</sup> For behold, I am sending among you serpents, adders that cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you," declares the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" "Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images and with their foreign idols?"

<sup>20</sup> "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

<sup>21</sup> For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.

<sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

**9**<sup>1</sup> Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

<sup>2</sup> Oh that I had in the desert a travelers' lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a company of treacherous men.

<sup>3</sup> They bend their tongue like a bow; falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, declares the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother, for every brother is a deceiver, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.

<sup>5</sup> Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity.

<sup>6</sup> Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, declares the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and test them, for what else can I do, because of my people?"

<sup>8</sup> Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceitfully; with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor, but in his heart he plans an ambush for him.

<sup>9</sup> Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the LORD, and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?

<sup>10</sup> "I will take up weeping and wailing for the mountains, and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness, because they are laid waste so that no one passes through, and the lowing of cattle is not heard; both the birds of the air and the beasts have fled and are gone.

<sup>11</sup> I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a lair of jackals, and I will make the

cities of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant."

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through?

<sup>13</sup> And the LORD says: "Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice or walked in accord with it,

<sup>14</sup> but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink.

<sup>16</sup> I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers

have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them."

<sup>17</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts:

"Consider, and call for the mourning women to come; send for the skillful women to come;

<sup>18</sup> let them make haste and raise a wailing over us, that our eyes may run down with tears and our eyelids flow with water.

<sup>19</sup> For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion: 'How we are ruined! We are utterly shamed, because we have left the land, because they have cast down our dwellings.'"

<sup>20</sup> Hear, O women, the word of the LORD, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth; teach to your daughters a lament, and each to her neighbor a dirge.

<sup>21</sup> For death has come up into our windows; it has entered our palaces,

cutting off the children from the streets and the young men from the squares.

<sup>22</sup> Speak, "Thus declares the LORD: 'The dead bodies of men shall fall like dung upon the open field, like sheaves after the reaper, and none shall gather them.'"

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

<sup>25</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh--

<sup>26</sup> Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert who cut the corners of their hair, for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart."

**10** <sup>1</sup> Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them,

<sup>3</sup> for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman.

<sup>4</sup> They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move.

<sup>5</sup> Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot

walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good."

<sup>6</sup> There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might.

<sup>7</sup> Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.

<sup>8</sup> They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood!

<sup>9</sup> Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz. They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men.

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

<sup>11</sup> Thus shall you say to them: "The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens."

<sup>12</sup> It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

<sup>13</sup> When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

<sup>14</sup> Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them.

<sup>15</sup> They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

<sup>16</sup> Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name.

<sup>17</sup> Gather up your bundle from the ground, O you who dwell under siege!

<sup>18</sup> For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I am slinging out the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I will bring distress on them, that they may feel it."

<sup>19</sup> Woe is me because of my hurt! My wound is grievous. But I said, "Truly this is an affliction, and I must bear it."

<sup>20</sup> My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are broken; my children have gone from me, and they are not; there is no one to spread my tent again and to set up my curtains.

<sup>21</sup> For the shepherds are stupid and do not inquire of the LORD; therefore they

have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.

<sup>22</sup> A voice, a rumor! Behold, it comes!-- a great commotion out of the north country to make the cities of Judah a desolation, a lair of jackals.

<sup>23</sup> I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

<sup>24</sup> Correct me, O LORD, but in justice; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing.

<sup>25</sup> Pour out your wrath on the nations that know you not, and on the peoples that call not on your name, for they have devoured Jacob; they have devoured him and consumed him, and have laid waste his habitation.

**11** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not hear the words of this covenant

<sup>4</sup> that I commanded your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Listen to my voice, and do all that I command you. So shall you be my people, and I will be your God,

<sup>5</sup> that I may confirm the oath that I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day." Then I answered, "So be it, LORD."

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them.

<sup>7</sup> For I solemnly warned your fathers when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey my voice.

<sup>8</sup> Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart. Therefore I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not."

<sup>9</sup> Again the LORD said to me, "A conspiracy exists among the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear my words. They have gone after other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant that I made with their fathers.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD, behold, I am bringing disaster upon

them that they cannot escape. Though they cry to me, I will not listen to them.

<sup>12</sup> Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry to the gods to whom they make offerings, but they cannot save them in the time of their trouble.

<sup>13</sup> For your gods have become as many as your cities, O Judah, and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to shame, altars to make offerings to Baal.

<sup>14</sup> "Therefore do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble.

<sup>15</sup> What right has my beloved in my house, when she has done many vile deeds? Can even sacrificial flesh avert your doom? Can you then exult?

<sup>16</sup> The LORD once called you 'a green olive tree, beautiful with good fruit.' But

with the roar of a great tempest he will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has decreed disaster against you, because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking me to anger by making offerings to Baal."

<sup>18</sup> The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds.

<sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."

<sup>20</sup> But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth, who seek your life, and say, "Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, or you will die by our hand"--

<sup>22</sup> therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will punish them. The young men shall die by the sword, their sons and their daughters shall die by famine,

<sup>23</sup> and none of them shall be left. For I will bring disaster upon the men of Anathoth, the year of their punishment."

**12** <sup>1</sup> Righteous are you, O LORD, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive?

<sup>2</sup> You plant them, and they take root; they grow and produce fruit; you are near in their mouth and far from their heart.

<sup>3</sup> But you, O LORD, know me; you see me, and test my heart toward you. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter.

<sup>4</sup> How long will the land mourn and the grass of every field wither? For the evil of those who dwell in it the beasts and the birds are swept away, because they said, "He will not see our latter end."

<sup>5</sup> "If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you are so trusting, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?

<sup>6</sup> For even your brothers and the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you; they are in full cry after you; do not believe them, though they speak friendly words to you."

<sup>7</sup> "I have forsaken my house; I have abandoned my heritage; I have given the beloved of my soul into the hands of her enemies.

<sup>8</sup> My heritage has become to me like a lion in the forest; she has lifted up her voice against me; therefore I hate her.

<sup>9</sup> Is my heritage to me like a hyena's lair? Are the birds of prey against her all around? Go, assemble all the wild beasts; bring them to devour.

<sup>10</sup> Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard; they have trampled down my portion; they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

<sup>11</sup> They have made it a desolation; desolate, it mourns to me. The whole land is made desolate, but no man lays it to heart.

<sup>12</sup> Upon all the bare heights in the desert destroyers have come, for the sword of the LORD devours from one

end of the land to the other; no flesh has peace.

<sup>13</sup> They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns; they have tired themselves out but profit nothing. They shall be ashamed of their harvests because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

<sup>14</sup> Thus says the LORD concerning all my evil neighbors who touch the heritage that I have given my people Israel to inherit: "Behold, I will pluck them up from their land, and I will pluck up the house of Judah from among them.

<sup>15</sup> And after I have plucked them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again each to his heritage and each to his land.

<sup>16</sup> And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, 'As the LORD lives,' even as they taught my people to swear

by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people.

<sup>17</sup> But if any nation will not listen, then I will utterly pluck it up and destroy it, declares the LORD."

**13** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD to me, "Go and buy a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, and do not dip it in water."

<sup>2</sup> So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the LORD, and put it around my waist.

<sup>3</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me a second time,

<sup>4</sup> "Take the loincloth that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates and hide it there in a cleft of the rock."

<sup>5</sup> So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.

<sup>6</sup> And after many days the LORD said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and

take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there."

<sup>7</sup> Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the loincloth was spoiled; it was good for nothing.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>9</sup> "Thus says the LORD: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing.

<sup>11</sup> For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the LORD, that they

might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.

<sup>12</sup> "You shall speak to them this word: 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "Every jar shall be filled with wine.'" And they will say to you, 'Do we not indeed know that every jar will be filled with wine?'

<sup>13</sup> Then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will fill with drunkenness all the inhabitants of this land: the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> And I will dash them one against another, fathers and sons together, declares the LORD. I will not pity or spare or have compassion, that I should not destroy them.'"

<sup>15</sup> Hear and give ear; be not proud, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>16</sup> Give glory to the LORD your God before he brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the twilight mountains, and while you look for light he turns it into gloom and makes it deep darkness.

<sup>17</sup> But if you will not listen, my soul will weep in secret for your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears, because the LORD's flock has been taken captive.

<sup>18</sup> Say to the king and the queen mother: "Take a lowly seat, for your beautiful crown has come down from your head."

<sup>19</sup> The cities of the Negeb are shut up, with none to open them; all Judah is taken into exile, wholly taken into exile.

<sup>20</sup> "Lift up your eyes and see those who come from the north. Where is the flock that was given you, your beautiful flock?"

<sup>21</sup> What will you say when they set as head over you those whom you yourself

have taught to be friends to you? Will not pangs take hold of you like those of a woman in labor?

<sup>22</sup> And if you say in your heart, 'Why have these things come upon me?' it is for the greatness of your iniquity that your skirts are lifted up and you suffer violence.

<sup>23</sup> Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then also you can do good who are accustomed to do evil.

<sup>24</sup> I will scatter you like chaff driven by the wind from the desert.

<sup>25</sup> This is your lot, the portion I have measured out to you, declares the LORD, because you have forgotten me and trusted in lies.

<sup>26</sup> I myself will lift up your skirts over your face, and your shame will be seen.

<sup>27</sup> I have seen your abominations, your adulteries and neighings, your lewd whorings, on the hills in the field. Woe

to you, O Jerusalem! How long will it be before you are made clean?"

**14** <sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

<sup>2</sup>"Judah mourns and her gates languish; her people lament on the ground, and the cry of Jerusalem goes up.

<sup>3</sup>Her nobles send their servants for water; they come to the cisterns; they find no water; they return with their vessels empty; they are ashamed and confounded and cover their heads.

<sup>4</sup>Because of the ground that is dismayed, since there is no rain on the land, the farmers are ashamed; they cover their heads.

<sup>5</sup>Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn fawn because there is no grass.

<sup>6</sup>The wild donkeys stand on the bare heights; they pant for air like jackals;

their eyes fail because there is no vegetation.

<sup>7</sup> "Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against you.

<sup>8</sup> O you hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?

<sup>9</sup> Why should you be like a man confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot save? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not leave us."

<sup>10</sup> Thus says the LORD concerning this people: "They have loved to wander thus; they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them; now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to me: "Do not pray for the welfare of this people.

<sup>12</sup> Though they fast, I will not hear their cry, and though they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence."

<sup>13</sup> Then I said: "Ah, Lord GOD, behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'"

<sup>14</sup> And the LORD said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send

them, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not come upon this land': By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed.

<sup>16</sup> And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword, with none to bury them--them, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will pour out their evil upon them.

<sup>17</sup> "You shall say to them this word: 'Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter of my people is shattered with a great wound, with a very grievous blow.

<sup>18</sup> If I go out into the field, behold, those pierced by the sword! And if I enter the city, behold, the diseases of famine! For both prophet and priest ply

their trade through the land and have no knowledge."

<sup>19</sup> Have you utterly rejected Judah? Does your soul loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror.

<sup>20</sup> We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you.

<sup>21</sup> Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us.

<sup>22</sup> Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.

**15** <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to me,  
"Though Moses and Samuel

stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go!

<sup>2</sup> And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: "'Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'

<sup>3</sup> I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, declares the LORD: the sword to kill, the dogs to tear, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy.

<sup>4</sup> And I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem.

<sup>5</sup> "Who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem, or who will grieve for you?

Who will turn aside to ask about your welfare?

<sup>6</sup> You have rejected me, declares the LORD; you keep going backward, so I have stretched out my hand against you and destroyed you-- I am weary of relenting.

<sup>7</sup> I have winnowed them with a winnowing fork in the gates of the land; I have bereaved them; I have destroyed my people; they did not turn from their ways.

<sup>8</sup> I have made their widows more in number than the sand of the seas; I have brought against the mothers of young men a destroyer at noonday; I have made anguish and terror fall upon them suddenly.

<sup>9</sup> She who bore seven has grown feeble; she has fainted away; her sun went down while it was yet day; she has been shamed and disgraced. And the rest of

them I will give to the sword before their enemies, declares the LORD."

<sup>10</sup> Woe is me, my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said, "Have I not set you free for their good? Have I not pleaded for you before the enemy in the time of trouble and in the time of distress?"

<sup>12</sup> Can one break iron, iron from the north, and bronze?

<sup>13</sup> "Your wealth and your treasures I will give as spoil, without price, for all your sins, throughout all your territory.

<sup>14</sup> I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever."

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance

take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

**16** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place.

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and daughters who are born in this place, and concerning the mothers who bore them and the fathers who fathered them in this land:

<sup>4</sup> They shall die of deadly diseases. They shall not be lamented, nor shall they be buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. They shall perish by the sword and by famine, and their

dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> "For thus says the LORD: Do not enter the house of mourning, or go to lament or grieve for them, for I have taken away my peace from this people, my steadfast love and mercy, declares the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> Both great and small shall die in this land. They shall not be buried, and no one shall lament for them or cut himself or make himself bald for them.

<sup>7</sup> No one shall break bread for the mourner, to comfort him for the dead, nor shall anyone give him the cup of consolation to drink for his father or his mother.

<sup>8</sup> You shall not go into the house of feasting to sit with them, to eat and drink.

<sup>9</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will silence in this place, before your eyes and in your

days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.

<sup>10</sup> "And when you tell this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? What is our iniquity? What is the sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?'

<sup>11</sup> then you shall say to them: 'Because your fathers have forsaken me, declares the LORD, and have gone after other gods and have served and worshiped them, and have forsaken me and have not kept my law,

<sup>12</sup> and because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to me.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I will hurl you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you

shall serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.'

<sup>14</sup> "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,'

<sup>15</sup> but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.

<sup>16</sup> "Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the LORD, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks.

<sup>17</sup> For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.

<sup>18</sup> But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations."

<sup>19</sup> O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit.

<sup>20</sup> Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!"

<sup>21</sup> "Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD."

**17** <sup>1</sup> "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of

their heart, and on the horns of their altars,

<sup>2</sup> while their children remember their altars and their Asherim, beside every green tree and on the high hills,

<sup>3</sup> on the mountains in the open country. Your wealth and all your treasures I will give for spoil as the price of your high places for sin throughout all your territory.

<sup>4</sup> You shall loosen your hand from your heritage that I gave to you, and I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever."

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall

dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

<sup>11</sup> Like the partridge that gathers a brood that she did not hatch, so is he who gets riches but not by justice; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at his end he will be a fool.

<sup>12</sup> A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.

<sup>13</sup> O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.

<sup>14</sup> Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.

<sup>15</sup> Behold, they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!"

<sup>16</sup> I have not run away from being your shepherd, nor have I desired the day of sickness. You know what came out of my lips; it was before your face.

<sup>17</sup> Be not a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster.

<sup>18</sup> Let those be put to shame who persecute me, but let me not be put to shame; let them be dismayed, but let

me not be dismayed; bring upon them the day of disaster; destroy them with double destruction!

<sup>19</sup> Thus said the LORD to me: "Go and stand in the People's Gate, by which the kings of Judah enter and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem,

<sup>20</sup> and say: 'Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who enter by these gates.

<sup>21</sup> Thus says the LORD: Take care for the sake of your lives, and do not bear a burden on the Sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem.

<sup>22</sup> And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath or do any work, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your fathers.

<sup>23</sup> Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and receive instruction.

<sup>24</sup> "But if you listen to me, declares the LORD, and bring in no burden by the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work on it,

<sup>25</sup> then there shall enter by the gates of this city kings and princes who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their officials, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And this city shall be inhabited forever.

<sup>26</sup> And people shall come from the cities of Judah and the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the Shephelah, from the hill country, and from the Negeb, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> But if you do not listen to me, to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to bear a burden and enter by the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched."

**18** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."

<sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.

<sup>4</sup> And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

<sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>6</sup> "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares

the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,

<sup>8</sup> and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

<sup>9</sup> And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,

<sup>10</sup> and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

<sup>11</sup> Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the LORD, behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return,

every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.'

<sup>12</sup> "But they say, 'That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'

<sup>13</sup> "Therefore thus says the LORD: Ask among the nations, Who has heard the like of this? The virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing.

<sup>14</sup> Does the snow of Lebanon leave the crags of Sirion? Do the mountain waters run dry, the cold flowing streams?

<sup>15</sup> But my people have forgotten me; they make offerings to false gods; they made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient roads, and to walk into side roads, not the highway,

<sup>16</sup> making their land a horror, a thing to be hissed at forever. Everyone who passes by it is horrified and shakes his head.

<sup>17</sup> Like the east wind I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity."

<sup>18</sup> Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words."

<sup>19</sup> Hear me, O LORD, and listen to the voice of my adversaries.

<sup>20</sup> Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore deliver up their children to famine; give them over to the power of the sword; let their wives become childless and widowed. May their men

meet death by pestilence, their youths be struck down by the sword in battle.

<sup>22</sup> May a cry be heard from their houses, when you bring the plunderer suddenly upon them! For they have dug a pit to take me and laid snares for my feet.

<sup>23</sup> Yet you, O LORD, know all their plotting to kill me. Forgive not their iniquity, nor blot out their sin from your sight. Let them be overthrown before you; deal with them in the time of your anger.

**19** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD, "Go, buy a potter's earthenware flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests,

<sup>2</sup> and go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you.

<sup>3</sup> You shall say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.

<sup>4</sup> Because the people have forsaken me and have profaned this place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of innocents,

<sup>5</sup> and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind--

<sup>6</sup> therefore, behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when this place shall no more be called Topheth, or the Valley

of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.

<sup>7</sup> And in this place I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will cause their people to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the earth.

<sup>8</sup> And I will make this city a horror, a thing to be hissed at. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its wounds.

<sup>9</sup> And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his neighbor in the siege and in the distress, with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them.'

<sup>10</sup> "Then you shall break the flask in the sight of the men who go with you,

<sup>11</sup> and shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, so that it can never be mended. Men shall bury in Topheth because there will be no place else to bury.

<sup>12</sup> Thus will I do to this place, declares the LORD, and to its inhabitants, making this city like Topheth.

<sup>13</sup> The houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah--all the houses on whose roofs offerings have been offered to all the host of heaven, and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods--shall be defiled like the place of Topheth.'"

<sup>14</sup> Then Jeremiah came from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the court of the LORD's house and said to all the people:

<sup>15</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, behold, I am bringing upon this city and upon all its towns all the disaster that I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their neck, refusing to hear my words."

**20**<sup>1</sup> Now Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things.

<sup>2</sup> Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> The next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The LORD does not call your name Pashhur, but Terror On Every Side.

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD: Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They shall fall by the sword of their enemies while you look on. And

I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon. He shall carry them captive to Babylon, and shall strike them down with the sword.

<sup>5</sup> Moreover, I will give all the wealth of the city, all its gains, all its prized belongings, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their enemies, who shall plunder them and seize them and carry them to Babylon.

<sup>6</sup> And you, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house, shall go into captivity. To Babylon you shall go, and there you shall die, and there you shall be buried, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied falsely."

<sup>7</sup> O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup> If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

<sup>14</sup> Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed!

<sup>15</sup> Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, "A son is born to you," making him very glad.

<sup>16</sup> Let that man be like the cities that the LORD overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon,

<sup>17</sup> because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great.

<sup>18</sup> Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?

**21** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Inquire of the LORD for us, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps the LORD will deal with us according to all his wonderful deeds and will make him withdraw from us."

<sup>3</sup> Then Jeremiah said to them:

<sup>4</sup> "Thus you shall say to Zedekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who are besieging

you outside the walls. And I will bring them together into the midst of this city.

<sup>5</sup> I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, in anger and in fury and in great wrath.

<sup>6</sup> And I will strike down the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. They shall die of a great pestilence.

<sup>7</sup> Afterward, declares the LORD, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his servants and the people in this city who survive the pestilence, sword, and famine into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their lives. He shall strike them down with the edge of the sword. He shall not pity them or spare them or have compassion.'

<sup>8</sup> "And to this people you shall say: 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.'

<sup>9</sup> He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war.

<sup>10</sup> For I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good, declares the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.'

<sup>11</sup> "And to the house of the king of Judah say, 'Hear the word of the LORD,

<sup>12</sup> O house of David! Thus says the LORD: "'Execute justice in the morning, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed, lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of your evil deeds.'"

<sup>13</sup> "Behold, I am against you, O inhabitant of the valley, O rock of the

plain, declares the LORD; you who say, 'Who shall come down against us, or who shall enter our habitations?'

<sup>14</sup> I will punish you according to the fruit of your deeds, declares the LORD; I will kindle a fire in her forest, and it shall devour all that is around her."

**22** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Go down to the house of the king of Judah and speak there this word,

<sup>2</sup> and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O King of Judah, who sits on the throne of David, you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates.

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

<sup>4</sup> For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people.

<sup>5</sup> But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.

<sup>6</sup> For thus says the LORD concerning the house of the king of Judah: "You are like Gilead to me, like the summit of Lebanon, yet surely I will make you a desert, an uninhabited city.

<sup>7</sup> I will prepare destroyers against you, each with his weapons, and they shall cut down your choicest cedars and cast them into the fire.

<sup>8</sup> "And many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say to his neighbor, "Why has the LORD dealt thus with this great city?"

<sup>9</sup> And they will answer, "Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and worshiped other gods and served them."""

<sup>10</sup> Weep not for him who is dead, nor grieve for him, but weep bitterly for him who goes away, for he shall return no more to see his native land.

<sup>11</sup> For thus says the LORD concerning Shallum the son of Josiah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of Josiah his father, and who went away from this place: "He shall return here no more,

<sup>12</sup> but in the place where they have carried him captive, there shall he die, and he shall never see this land again."

<sup>13</sup> "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages,

<sup>14</sup> who says, 'I will build myself a great house with spacious upper rooms,' who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar and painting it with vermilion.

<sup>15</sup> Do you think you are a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him.

<sup>16</sup> He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence."

<sup>18</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: "They shall not lament for him, saying, 'Ah, my brother!' or 'Ah, sister!' They shall not lament for him, saying, 'Ah, lord!' or 'Ah, his majesty!'

<sup>19</sup> With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried, dragged and dumped beyond the gates of Jerusalem."

<sup>20</sup> "Go up to Lebanon, and cry out, and lift up your voice in Bashan; cry out from Abarim, for all your lovers are destroyed.

<sup>21</sup> I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, 'I will not listen.' This has been your way from your youth, that you have not obeyed my voice.

<sup>22</sup> The wind shall shepherd all your shepherds, and your lovers shall go into captivity; then you will be ashamed and confounded because of all your evil.

<sup>23</sup> O inhabitant of Lebanon, nested among the cedars, how you will be pitied when pangs come upon you, pain as of a woman in labor!"

<sup>24</sup> "As I live, declares the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off

<sup>25</sup> and give you into the hand of those who seek your life, into the hand of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans.

<sup>26</sup> I will hurl you and the mother who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die.

<sup>27</sup> But to the land to which they will long to return, there they shall not return."

<sup>28</sup> Is this man Coniah a despised, broken pot, a vessel no one cares for? Why are he and his children hurled and cast into a land that they do not know?

<sup>29</sup> O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD!

<sup>30</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of

his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah."

**23**<sup>1</sup> "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

<sup>4</sup> I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

<sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

<sup>7</sup> "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,'

<sup>8</sup> but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

<sup>9</sup> Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me; all my bones shake;

I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD and because of his holy words.

<sup>10</sup> For the land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course is evil, and their might is not right.

<sup>11</sup> "Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their evil, declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore their way shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall, for I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment, declares the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> In the prophets of Samaria I saw an unsavory thing: they prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray.

<sup>14</sup> But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they

strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil; all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah."

<sup>15</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: "Behold, I will feed them with bitter food and give them poisoned water to drink, for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has gone out into all the land."

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

<sup>18</sup> For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to

hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

<sup>19</sup> Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

<sup>20</sup> The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

<sup>21</sup> "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup> But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup> "Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off?

<sup>24</sup> Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'

<sup>26</sup> How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart,

<sup>27</sup> who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal?

<sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD.

<sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another.

<sup>31</sup> Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the LORD.'

<sup>32</sup> Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> "When one of this people, or a prophet or a priest asks you, 'What is the burden of the LORD?' you shall say to them, 'You are the burden, and I will cast you off, declares the LORD.'

<sup>34</sup> And as for the prophet, priest, or one of the people who says, 'The burden of the LORD,' I will punish that man and his household.

<sup>35</sup> Thus shall you say, every one to his neighbor and every one to his brother, 'What has the LORD answered?' or 'What has the LORD spoken?'

<sup>36</sup> But 'the burden of the LORD' you shall mention no more, for the burden is every man's own word, and you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.

<sup>37</sup> Thus you shall say to the prophet, 'What has the LORD answered you?' or 'What has the LORD spoken?'

<sup>38</sup> But if you say, 'The burden of the LORD,' thus says the LORD, 'Because you have said these words, "The burden of the LORD," when I sent to you, saying, "You shall not say, 'The burden of the LORD,'"

<sup>39</sup> therefore, behold, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my presence, you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers.

<sup>40</sup> And I will bring upon you everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten."

**24** <sup>1</sup> After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, together with the officials of Judah, the craftsmen, and the metal workers, and had brought them to Babylon, the LORD showed me this vision: behold, two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten.

<sup>3</sup> And the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "Figs, the

good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten."

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>5</sup> "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans.

<sup>6</sup> I will set my eyes on them for 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.

<sup>7</sup> I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

<sup>8</sup> "But thus says the LORD: Like the bad figs that are so bad they cannot be

eaten, so will I treat Zedekiah the king of Judah, his officials, the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a reproach, a byword, a taunt, and a curse in all the places where I shall drive them.

<sup>10</sup> And I will send sword, famine, and pestilence upon them, until they shall be utterly destroyed from the land that I gave to them and their fathers."

**25** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon),

<sup>2</sup> which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem:

<sup>3</sup> "For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened.

<sup>4</sup> You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the LORD persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets,

<sup>5</sup> saying, 'Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever.

<sup>6</sup> Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.'

<sup>7</sup> Yet you have not listened to me, declares the LORD, that you might

provoke me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words,

<sup>9</sup> behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.

<sup>10</sup> Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

<sup>11</sup> This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

<sup>12</sup> Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste.

<sup>13</sup> I will bring upon that land all the words that I have uttered against it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations.

<sup>14</sup> For many nations and great kings shall make slaves even of them, and I will recompense them according to their deeds and the work of their hands."

<sup>15</sup> Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.

<sup>16</sup> They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them."

<sup>17</sup> So I took the cup from the LORD's hand, and made all the nations to whom the LORD sent me drink it:

<sup>18</sup> Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and officials, to make them a desolation and a waste, a hissing and a curse, as at this day;

<sup>19</sup> Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his officials, all his people,

<sup>20</sup> and all the mixed tribes among them; all the kings of the land of Uz and all the kings of the land of the Philistines (Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod);

<sup>21</sup> Edom, Moab, and the sons of Ammon;

<sup>22</sup> all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastland across the sea;

<sup>23</sup> Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who cut the corners of their hair;

<sup>24</sup> all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed tribes who dwell in the desert;

<sup>25</sup> all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of Media;

<sup>26</sup> all the kings of the north, far and near, one after another, and all the kingdoms of the world that are on the face of the earth. And after them the king of Babylon shall drink.

<sup>27</sup> "Then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Drink, be drunk and vomit, fall and rise no more, because of the sword that I am sending among you.'

<sup>28</sup> "And if they refuse to accept the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: You must drink!

<sup>29</sup> For behold, I begin to work disaster at the city that is called by my name, and shall you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, declares the LORD of hosts.'

<sup>30</sup> "You, therefore, shall prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: "'The LORD will roar from on high, and from his holy habitation utter his voice; he will roar mightily against his fold, and shout, like those who tread grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.

<sup>31</sup> The clamor will resound to the ends of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against the nations; he is entering into judgment with all flesh, and the wicked he will put to the sword, declares the LORD.'

<sup>32</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, disaster is going forth from nation to

nation, and a great tempest is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth!

<sup>33</sup> "And those pierced by the LORD on that day shall extend from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall be dung on the surface of the ground.

<sup>34</sup> "Wail, you shepherds, and cry out, and roll in ashes, you lords of the flock, for the days of your slaughter and dispersion have come, and you shall fall like a choice vessel.

<sup>35</sup> No refuge will remain for the shepherds, nor escape for the lords of the flock.

<sup>36</sup> A voice--the cry of the shepherds, and the wail of the lords of the flock! For the LORD is laying waste their pasture,

<sup>37</sup> and the peaceful folds are devastated because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

<sup>38</sup> Like a lion he has left his lair, for their land has become a waste because of the sword of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger."

**26** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word.

<sup>3</sup> It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds.

<sup>4</sup> You shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you,

<sup>5</sup> and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send

to you urgently, though you have not listened,

<sup>6</sup> then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die!

<sup>9</sup> Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the

king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

<sup>12</sup> Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard.

<sup>13</sup> Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you.

<sup>14</sup> But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you.

<sup>15</sup> Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

<sup>16</sup> Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."

<sup>17</sup> And certain of the elders of the land arose and spoke to all the assembled people, saying,

<sup>18</sup> "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and said to all the people of Judah: 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "'Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.'

<sup>19</sup> Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and entreat the favor of the LORD, and did not the LORD relent of the disaster that he had pronounced against them? But we are about to bring great disaster upon ourselves."

<sup>20</sup> There was another man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Uriah the son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim. He prophesied against this city and against this land in words like those of Jeremiah.

<sup>21</sup> And when King Jehoiakim, with all his warriors and all the officials, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death. But when Uriah heard of it, he was afraid and fled and escaped to Egypt.

<sup>22</sup> Then King Jehoiakim sent to Egypt certain men, Elnathan the son of Achbor and others with him,

<sup>23</sup> and they took Uriah from Egypt and brought him to King Jehoiakim, who struck him down with the sword and dumped his dead body into the burial place of the common people.

<sup>24</sup> But the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah so that he was not given over to the people to be put to death.

**27** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Thus the LORD said to me: "Make yourself straps and yoke-bars, and put them on your neck.

<sup>3</sup> Send word to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the sons of Ammon, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon by the hand of the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.

<sup>4</sup> Give them this charge for their masters: 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: This is what you shall say to your masters:

<sup>5</sup> "It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me.

<sup>6</sup> Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him.

<sup>7</sup> All the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson, until the time of his own land comes. Then many nations and great kings shall make him their slave.

<sup>8</sup> ""But if any nation or kingdom will not serve this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and put its neck under the yoke

of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, declares the LORD, until I have consumed it by his hand.

<sup>9</sup> So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your fortune-tellers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon.'

<sup>10</sup> For it is a lie that they are prophesying to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your land, and I will drive you out, and you will perish.

<sup>11</sup> But any nation that will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave on its own land, to work it and dwell there, declares the LORD. ""

<sup>12</sup> To Zedekiah king of Judah I spoke in like manner: "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live.

<sup>13</sup> Why will you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as the LORD has spoken concerning any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?

<sup>14</sup> Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to you, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon,' for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you.

<sup>15</sup> I have not sent them, declares the LORD, but they are prophesying falsely in my name, with the result that I will drive you out and you will perish, you and the prophets who are prophesying to you."

<sup>16</sup> Then I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: Do not listen to the words of your prophets who are prophesying to you, saying, 'Behold, the vessels of the LORD's house will now shortly be brought back from Babylon,' for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you.

<sup>17</sup> Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon and live. Why should this city become a desolation?

<sup>18</sup> If they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, then let them intercede with the LORD of hosts, that the vessels that are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon.

<sup>19</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars, the sea, the stands, and the rest of the vessels that are left in this city,

<sup>20</sup> which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take away, when he took into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem--

<sup>21</sup> thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that

are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem:

<sup>22</sup> They shall be carried to Babylon and remain there until the day when I visit them, declares the LORD. Then I will bring them back and restore them to this place."

**28** <sup>1</sup> In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

<sup>3</sup> Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of

Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> I will also bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, declares the LORD, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon."

<sup>5</sup> Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD,

<sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles.

<sup>7</sup> Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people.

<sup>8</sup> The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms.

<sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

<sup>10</sup> Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke-bars from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke them.

<sup>11</sup> And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years." But Jeremiah the prophet went his way.

<sup>12</sup> Sometime after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke-bars from off the neck of Jeremiah the prophet, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>13</sup> "Go, tell Hananiah, 'Thus says the LORD: You have broken wooden bars, but you have made in their place bars of iron.

<sup>14</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have put upon the neck of all these nations an iron yoke to serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they shall serve him, for I have given to him even the beasts of the field.'"

<sup>15</sup> And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against the LORD.'"

<sup>17</sup> In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

**29** <sup>1</sup> These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>2</sup> This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:

<sup>4</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

<sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

<sup>6</sup> Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

<sup>7</sup> But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

<sup>8</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream,

<sup>9</sup> for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill

to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

<sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart,

<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

<sup>15</sup> "Because you have said, 'The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon,'

<sup>16</sup> thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, and concerning all the people who dwell

in this city, your kinsmen who did not go out with you into exile:

<sup>17</sup> 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, behold, I am sending on them sword, famine, and pestilence, and I will make them like vile figs that are so rotten they cannot be eaten.

<sup>18</sup> I will pursue them with sword, famine, and pestilence, and will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, a terror, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them,

<sup>19</sup> because they did not pay attention to my words, declares the LORD, that I persistently sent to you by my servants the prophets, but you would not listen, declares the LORD.'

<sup>20</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles whom I sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

<sup>21</sup> 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying a lie to you in my name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall strike them down before your eyes.

<sup>22</sup> Because of them this curse shall be used by all the exiles from Judah in Babylon: "The LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire,"

<sup>23</sup> because they have done an outrageous thing in Israel, they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and they have spoken in my name lying words that I did not command them. I am the one who knows, and I am witness, declares the LORD."

<sup>24</sup> To Shemaiah of Nehelam you shall say:

<sup>25</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are in Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,

<sup>26</sup> 'The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, to have charge in the house of the LORD over every madman who prophesies, to put him in the stocks and neck irons.

<sup>27</sup> Now why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who is prophesying to you?

<sup>28</sup> For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, "Your exile will be long; build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their produce."'''

<sup>29</sup> Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet.

<sup>30</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>31</sup> "Send to all the exiles, saying, 'Thus says the LORD concerning Shemaiah of Nehelam: Because Shemaiah had prophesied to you when I did not send him, and has made you trust in a lie,

<sup>32</sup> therefore thus says the LORD: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah of Nehelam and his descendants. He shall not have anyone living among this people, and he shall not see the good that I will do to my people, declares the LORD, for he has spoken rebellion against the LORD.'"

**30** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.

<sup>3</sup> For behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back

to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it."

<sup>4</sup> These are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah:

<sup>5</sup> "Thus says the LORD: We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no peace.

<sup>6</sup> Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor? Why has every face turned pale?

<sup>7</sup> Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.

<sup>8</sup> "And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him.

<sup>9</sup> But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

<sup>10</sup> "Then fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid.

<sup>11</sup> For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.

<sup>12</sup> "For thus says the LORD: Your hurt is incurable, and your wound is grievous.

<sup>13</sup> There is none to uphold your cause, no medicine for your wound, no healing for you.

<sup>14</sup> All your lovers have forgotten you; they care nothing for you; for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy, the

punishment of a merciless foe, because your guilt is great, because your sins are flagrant.

<sup>15</sup> Why do you cry out over your hurt? Your pain is incurable. Because your guilt is great, because your sins are flagrant, I have done these things to you.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured, and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall be plundered, and all who prey on you I will make a prey.

<sup>17</sup> For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the LORD, because they have called you an outcast: 'It is Zion, for whom no one cares!'

<sup>18</sup> "Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt on its mound,

and the palace shall stand where it used to be.

<sup>19</sup> Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.

<sup>20</sup> Their children shall be as they were of old, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all who oppress them.

<sup>21</sup> Their prince shall be one of themselves; their ruler shall come out from their midst; I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me, for who would dare of himself to approach me? declares the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> And you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

<sup>23</sup> Behold the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

<sup>24</sup> The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intentions of his mind. In the latter days you will understand this.

**31** <sup>1</sup> "At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people."

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, <sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit.

<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.'

<sup>8</sup> Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they

shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD."

<sup>15</sup> Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

<sup>17</sup> There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.

<sup>18</sup> I have heard Ephraim grieving, 'You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the LORD my God.

<sup>19</sup> For after I had turned away, I relented, and after I was instructed, I slapped my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was confounded, because I bore the disgrace of my youth.'

<sup>20</sup> Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child? For as often as I speak against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> "Set up road markers for yourself; make yourself guideposts; consider well the highway, the road by which you went. Return, O virgin Israel, return to these your cities.

<sup>22</sup> How long will you waver, O faithless daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing on the earth: a woman encircles a man."

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Once more they shall use

these words in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I restore their fortunes: "The LORD bless you, O habitation of righteousness, O holy hill!"

<sup>24</sup> And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the farmers and those who wander with their flocks.

<sup>25</sup> For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish."

<sup>26</sup> At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.

<sup>27</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the seed of beast.

<sup>28</sup> And it shall come to pass that as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, declares the LORD.

<sup>29</sup> In those days they shall no longer say:  
"The fathers have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children's teeth are set on edge.'

<sup>30</sup> But everyone shall die for his own  
sin. Each man who eats sour grapes, his  
teeth shall be set on edge.

<sup>31</sup> "Behold, the days are coming,  
declares the LORD, when I will make a  
new covenant with the house of Israel  
and the house of Judah,

<sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made  
with their fathers on the day when I took  
them by the hand to bring them out  
of the land of Egypt, my covenant that  
they broke, though I was their husband,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will  
make with the house of Israel after those  
days, declares the LORD: I will put my  
law within them, and I will write it on  
their hearts. And I will be their God, and  
they shall be my people.

<sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

<sup>35</sup> Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar-- the LORD of hosts is his name:

<sup>36</sup> "If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever."

<sup>37</sup> Thus says the LORD: "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD."

<sup>38</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.

<sup>39</sup> And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah.

<sup>40</sup> The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall not be uprooted or overthrown anymore forever."

**32** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>2</sup> At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the

court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah.

<sup>3</sup> For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "Why do you prophesy and say, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it;

<sup>4</sup> Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I visit him, declares the LORD. Though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed'?"

<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>7</sup> Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, 'Buy

my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.'

<sup>8</sup> Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.

<sup>10</sup> I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.

<sup>11</sup> Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy.

<sup>12</sup> And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of

Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard.

<sup>13</sup> I charged Baruch in their presence, saying,

<sup>14</sup> 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time.

<sup>15</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.'

<sup>16</sup> "After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying:

<sup>17</sup> 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your

great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

<sup>18</sup> You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts,

<sup>19</sup> great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the children of man, rewarding each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds.

<sup>20</sup> You have shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all mankind, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day.

<sup>21</sup> You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and outstretched arm, and with great terror.

<sup>22</sup> And you gave them this land, which you swore to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>23</sup> And they entered and took possession of it. But they did not obey your voice or walk in your law. They did nothing of all you commanded them to do. Therefore you have made all this disaster come upon them.

<sup>24</sup> Behold, the siege mounds have come up to the city to take it, and because of sword and famine and pestilence the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you spoke has come to pass, and behold, you see it.

<sup>25</sup> Yet you, O Lord GOD, have said to me, "Buy the field for money and get witnesses"--though the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans."

<sup>26</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>27</sup> "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hands of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall capture it.

<sup>29</sup> The Chaldeans who are fighting against this city shall come and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses on whose roofs offerings have been made to Baal and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods, to provoke me to anger.

<sup>30</sup> For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth. The children of Israel have done nothing but provoke me to anger by the work of their hands, declares the LORD.

<sup>31</sup> This city has aroused my anger and wrath, from the day it was built to this day, so that I will remove it from my sight

<sup>32</sup> because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah that they did to provoke me to anger--their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>33</sup> They have turned to me their back and not their face. And though I have taught them persistently, they have not listened to receive instruction.

<sup>34</sup> They set up their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it.

<sup>35</sup> They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should

do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

<sup>36</sup> "Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, 'It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence':

<sup>37</sup> Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.

<sup>38</sup> And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

<sup>39</sup> I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

<sup>40</sup> I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the

fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.

<sup>41</sup> I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

<sup>42</sup> "For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them.

<sup>43</sup> Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, 'It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.'

<sup>44</sup> Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for I

will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD."

**33** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard:

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it--the LORD is his name:

<sup>3</sup> Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds and against the sword:

<sup>5</sup> They are coming in to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them with the dead bodies of men whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath, for I have

hidden my face from this city because of all their evil.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.

<sup>7</sup> I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first.

<sup>8</sup> I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

<sup>9</sup> And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.

<sup>10</sup> "Thus says the LORD: In this place of which you say, 'It is a waste without man or beast,' in the cities of Judah and the

streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again

<sup>11</sup> the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD: "Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: In this place that is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its cities, there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks.

<sup>13</sup> In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places about Jerusalem, and in the

cities of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

<sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

<sup>17</sup> "For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,

<sup>18</sup> and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."

<sup>19</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>20</sup> "Thus says the LORD: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time,

<sup>21</sup> then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers.

<sup>22</sup> As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me."

<sup>23</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>24</sup> "Have you not observed that these people are saying, 'The LORD has rejected the two clans that he chose'?

Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight.

<sup>25</sup> Thus says the LORD: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth,

<sup>26</sup> then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them."

**34** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion and all the peoples were fighting against Jerusalem and all of its cities:

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Go and speak to Zedekiah king

of Judah and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.

<sup>3</sup> You shall not escape from his hand but shall surely be captured and delivered into his hand. You shall see the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak with him face to face. And you shall go to Babylon.'

<sup>4</sup> Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah! Thus says the LORD concerning you: 'You shall not die by the sword.

<sup>5</sup> You shall die in peace. And as spices were burned for your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so people shall burn spices for you and lament for you, saying, "Alas, lord!" For I have spoken the word, declares the LORD."

<sup>6</sup> Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem,

<sup>7</sup> when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish and Azekah, for these were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained.

<sup>8</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty to them,

<sup>9</sup> that everyone should set free his Hebrew slaves, male and female, so that no one should enslave a Jew, his brother.

<sup>10</sup> And they obeyed, all the officials and all the people who had entered into the covenant that everyone would set free his slave, male or female, so that

they would not be enslaved again. They obeyed and set them free.

<sup>11</sup> But afterward they turned around and took back the male and female slaves they had set free, and brought them into subjection as slaves.

<sup>12</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>13</sup> "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I myself made a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, saying,

<sup>14</sup> 'At the end of seven years each of you must set free the fellow Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served you six years; you must set him free from your service.' But your fathers did not listen to me or incline their ears to me.

<sup>15</sup> You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you

made a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name,

<sup>16</sup> but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves.

<sup>17</sup> "Therefore, thus says the LORD: You have not obeyed me by proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and to his neighbor; behold, I proclaim to you liberty to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, declares the LORD. I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

<sup>18</sup> And the men who transgressed my covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before me, I will make them like the calf that they cut in two and passed between its parts--

<sup>19</sup> the officials of Judah, the officials of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf.

<sup>20</sup> And I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives. Their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth.

<sup>21</sup> And Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials I will give into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives, into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon which has withdrawn from you.

<sup>22</sup> Behold, I will command, declares the LORD, and will bring them back to this city. And they will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant."

**35** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

<sup>2</sup> "Go to the house of the Rechabites and speak with them and bring them to the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers; then offer them wine to drink."

<sup>3</sup> So I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, son of Habazziniah and his brothers and all his sons and the whole house of the Rechabites.

<sup>4</sup> I brought them to the house of the LORD into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, the man of God, which was near the chamber of the officials, above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, keeper of the threshold.

<sup>5</sup> Then I set before the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups, and I said to them, "Drink wine."

<sup>6</sup> But they answered, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, 'You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons forever.

<sup>7</sup> You shall not build a house; you shall not sow seed; you shall not plant or have a vineyard; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.'

<sup>8</sup> We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, to drink no wine all our days, ourselves, our wives, our sons, or our daughters,

<sup>9</sup> and not to build houses to dwell in. We have no vineyard or field or seed,

<sup>10</sup> but we have lived in tents and have obeyed and done all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

<sup>11</sup> But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, we said, 'Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and the army of the Syrians.' So we are living in Jerusalem."

<sup>12</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>13</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words? declares the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> The command that Jonadab the son of Rechab gave to his sons, to drink no wine, has been kept, and they drink none to this day, for they have obeyed their father's command. I have spoken

to you persistently, but you have not listened to me.

<sup>15</sup> I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, 'Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to you and your fathers.' But you did not incline your ear or listen to me.

<sup>16</sup> The sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have kept the command that their father gave them, but this people has not obeyed me.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, because I have spoken to them and they

have not listened, I have called to them and they have not answered."

<sup>18</sup> But to the house of the Rechabites Jeremiah said, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the command of Jonadab your father and kept all his precepts and done all that he commanded you,

<sup>19</sup> therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Jonadab the son of Rechab shall never lack a man to stand before me."

**36** <sup>1</sup> In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today.

<sup>3</sup> It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

<sup>4</sup> Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD that he had spoken to him.

<sup>5</sup> And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am banned from going to the house of the LORD,

<sup>6</sup> so you are to go, and on a day of fasting in the hearing of all the people in the LORD's house you shall read the words of the LORD from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the men of Judah who come out of their cities.

<sup>7</sup> It may be that their plea for mercy will come before the LORD, and that every

one will turn from his evil way, for great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people."

<sup>8</sup> And Baruch the son of Neriah did all that Jeremiah the prophet ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the LORD in the LORD's house.

<sup>9</sup> In the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem proclaimed a fast before the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> Then, in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

<sup>11</sup> When Micaiah the son of Gemariah, son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll,

<sup>12</sup> he went down to the king's house, into the secretary's chamber, and all the officials were sitting there: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, Elnathan the son of Achbor, Gemariah the son of Shaphan, Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the officials.

<sup>13</sup> And Micaiah told them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the scroll in the hearing of the people.

<sup>14</sup> Then all the officials sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, son of Shelemiah, son of Cushi, to say to Baruch, "Take in your hand the scroll that you read in the hearing of the people, and come." So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them.

<sup>15</sup> And they said to him, "Sit down and read it." So Baruch read it to them.

<sup>16</sup> When they heard all the words, they turned one to another in fear. And they said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king."

<sup>17</sup> Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, please, how did you write all these words? Was it at his dictation?"

<sup>18</sup> Baruch answered them, "He dictated all these words to me, while I wrote them with ink on the scroll."

<sup>19</sup> Then the officials said to Baruch, "Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are."

<sup>20</sup> So they went into the court to the king, having put the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the secretary, and they reported all the words to the king.

<sup>21</sup> Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary. And Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king.

<sup>22</sup> It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him.

<sup>23</sup> As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot.

<sup>24</sup> Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments.

<sup>25</sup> Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

<sup>26</sup> And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son and Seraiah the son of Azriel and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel to seize Baruch the secretary and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them.

<sup>27</sup> Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>28</sup> "Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned.

<sup>29</sup> And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say, 'Thus says the LORD, You have burned this scroll, saying, "Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cut off from it man and beast?"'

<sup>30</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have none to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night.

<sup>31</sup> And I will punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity. I will bring upon them and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and upon the people of Judah all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, but they would not hear."

<sup>32</sup> Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

**37** <sup>1</sup> Zedekiah the son of Josiah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah, reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim.

<sup>2</sup> But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words

of the LORD that he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet.

<sup>3</sup> King Zedekiah sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Please pray for us to the LORD our God."

<sup>4</sup> Now Jeremiah was still going in and out among the people, for he had not yet been put in prison.

<sup>5</sup> The army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt. And when the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>7</sup> "Thus says the LORD, God of Israel: Thus shall you say to the king of Judah who sent you to me to inquire of me, 'Behold, Pharaoh's army that came to

help you is about to return to Egypt, to its own land.

<sup>8</sup> And the Chaldeans shall come back and fight against this city. They shall capture it and burn it with fire.

<sup>9</sup> Thus says the LORD, Do not deceive yourselves, saying, "The Chaldeans will surely go away from us," for they will not go away.

<sup>10</sup> For even if you should defeat the whole army of Chaldeans who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men, every man in his tent, they would rise up and burn this city with fire."

<sup>11</sup> Now when the Chaldean army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of Pharaoh's army,

<sup>12</sup> Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to receive his portion there among the people.

<sup>13</sup> When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a sentry there named Irijah the son of Shelemiah, son of Hananiah, seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "You are deserting to the Chaldeans."

<sup>14</sup> And Jeremiah said, "It is a lie; I am not deserting to the Chaldeans." But Irijah would not listen to him, and seized Jeremiah and brought him to the officials.

<sup>15</sup> And the officials were enraged at Jeremiah, and they beat him and imprisoned him in the house of Jonathan the secretary, for it had been made a prison.

<sup>16</sup> When Jeremiah had come to the dungeon cells and remained there many days,

<sup>17</sup> King Zedekiah sent for him and received him. The king questioned him secretly in his house and said, "Is there any word from the LORD?" Jeremiah

said, "There is." Then he said, "You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon."

<sup>18</sup> Jeremiah also said to King Zedekiah, "What wrong have I done to you or your servants or this people, that you have put me in prison?"

<sup>19</sup> Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, 'The king of Babylon will not come against you and against this land'?

<sup>20</sup> Now hear, please, O my lord the king: let my humble plea come before you and do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the secretary, lest I die there."

<sup>21</sup> So King Zedekiah gave orders, and they committed Jeremiah to the court of the guard. And a loaf of bread was given him daily from the bakers' street, until all the bread of the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

**38** <sup>1</sup> Now Shephatiah the son of Mattan, Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people,

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD: He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out to the Chaldeans shall live. He shall have his life as a prize of war, and live.

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD: This city shall surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon and be taken."

<sup>4</sup> Then the officials said to the king, "Let this man be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm."

<sup>5</sup> King Zedekiah said, "Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you."

<sup>6</sup> So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

<sup>7</sup> When Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch who was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern--the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate--

<sup>8</sup> Ebed-melech went from the king's house and said to the king,

<sup>9</sup> "My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city."

<sup>10</sup> Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, "Take three men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies."

<sup>11</sup> So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to the house of the king, to a wardrobe in the storehouse, and took from there old rags and worn-out clothes, which he let down to Jeremiah in the cistern by ropes.

<sup>12</sup> Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, "Put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes." Jeremiah did so.

<sup>13</sup> Then they drew Jeremiah up with ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

<sup>14</sup> King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and received him at the third entrance of the temple of the LORD. The

king said to Jeremiah, "I will ask you a question; hide nothing from me."

<sup>15</sup> Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "If I tell you, will you not surely put me to death? And if I give you counsel, you will not listen to me."

<sup>16</sup> Then King Zedekiah swore secretly to Jeremiah, "As the LORD lives, who made our souls, I will not put you to death or deliver you into the hand of these men who seek your life."

<sup>17</sup> Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: If you will surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then your life shall be spared, and this city shall not be burned with fire, and you and your house shall live.

<sup>18</sup> But if you do not surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then this city shall be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with

fire, and you shall not escape from their hand."

<sup>19</sup> King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Judeans who have deserted to the Chaldeans, lest I be handed over to them and they deal cruelly with me."

<sup>20</sup> Jeremiah said, "You shall not be given to them. Obey now the voice of the LORD in what I say to you, and it shall be well with you, and your life shall be spared.

<sup>21</sup> But if you refuse to surrender, this is the vision which the LORD has shown to me:

<sup>22</sup> Behold, all the women left in the house of the king of Judah were being led out to the officials of the king of Babylon and were saying, "'Your trusted friends have deceived you and prevailed against you; now that your feet are sunk in the mud, they turn away from you.'

<sup>23</sup> All your wives and your sons shall be led out to the Chaldeans, and you yourself shall not escape from their hand, but shall be seized by the king of Babylon, and this city shall be burned with fire."

<sup>24</sup> Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "Let no one know of these words, and you shall not die.

<sup>25</sup> If the officials hear that I have spoken with you and come to you and say to you, 'Tell us what you said to the king and what the king said to you; hide nothing from us and we will not put you to death,'

<sup>26</sup> then you shall say to them, 'I made a humble plea to the king that he would not send me back to the house of Jonathan to die there.'"

<sup>27</sup> Then all the officials came to Jeremiah and asked him, and he answered them as the king had instructed him. So they

stopped speaking with him, for the conversation had not been overheard.

<sup>28</sup> And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was taken.

**39** <sup>1</sup> In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and besieged it.

<sup>2</sup> In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city.

<sup>3</sup> Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Nergal-sar-ezer, Samgar-nebu, Sar-sekim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, with all the rest of the officers of the king of Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> When Zedekiah king of Judah and all the soldiers saw them, they fled, going

out of the city at night by way of the king's garden through the gate between the two walls; and they went toward the Arabah.

<sup>5</sup> But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. And when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, at Riblah, in the land of Hamath; and he passed sentence on him.

<sup>6</sup> The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes, and the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of Judah.

<sup>7</sup> He put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon.

<sup>8</sup> The Chaldeans burned the king's house and the house of the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>9</sup> Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, carried into exile to Babylon the rest of the people who were left in the city, those who had deserted to him, and the people who remained.

<sup>10</sup> Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, left in the land of Judah some of the poor people who owned nothing, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

<sup>11</sup> Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying,

<sup>12</sup> "Take him, look after him well, and do him no harm, but deal with him as he tells you."

<sup>13</sup> So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, Nebushazban the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon

<sup>14</sup> sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the guard. They entrusted him to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, that he should take him home. So he lived among the people.

<sup>15</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah while he was shut up in the court of the guard:

<sup>16</sup> "Go, and say to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will fulfill my words against this city for harm and not for good, and they shall be accomplished before you on that day.

<sup>17</sup> But I will deliver you on that day, declares the LORD, and you shall not be given into the hand of the men of whom you are afraid.

<sup>18</sup> For I will surely save you, and you shall not fall by the sword, but you shall have your life as a prize of war, because

you have put your trust in me, declares the LORD."

**40** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he took him bound in chains along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon.

<sup>2</sup> The captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him, "The LORD your God pronounced this disaster against this place.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has brought it about, and has done as he said. Because you sinned against the LORD and did not obey his voice, this thing has come upon you.

<sup>4</sup> Now, behold, I release you today from the chains on your hands. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you well, but if it seems wrong to you to come with

me to Babylon, do not come. See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go.

<sup>5</sup> If you remain, then return to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed governor of the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people. Or go wherever you think it right to go." So the captain of the guard gave him an allowance of food and a present, and let him go.

<sup>6</sup> Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah, and lived with him among the people who were left in the land.

<sup>7</sup> When all the captains of the forces in the open country and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land and had committed to him men, women, and children, those of the

poorest of the land who had not been taken into exile to Babylon,

<sup>8</sup> they went to Gedaliah at Mizpah--Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Kareah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, Jezaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

<sup>9</sup> Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, swore to them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you.

<sup>10</sup> As for me, I will dwell at Mizpah, to represent you before the Chaldeans who will come to us. But as for you, gather wine and summer fruits and oil, and store them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken."

<sup>11</sup> Likewise, when all the Judeans who were in Moab and among the

Ammonites and in Edom and in other lands heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, as governor over them,

<sup>12</sup> then all the Judeans returned from all the places to which they had been driven and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah. And they gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance.

<sup>13</sup> Now Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces in the open country came to Gedaliah at Mizpah

<sup>14</sup> and said to him, "Do you know that Baalis the king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam would not believe them.

<sup>15</sup> Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah at Mizpah, "Please let me go and strike down

Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no one will know it. Why should he take your life, so that all the Judeans who are gathered about you would be scattered, and the remnant of Judah would perish?"

<sup>16</sup> But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, "You shall not do this thing, for you are speaking falsely of Ishmael."

**41** <sup>1</sup> In the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family, one of the chief officers of the king, came with ten men to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah. As they ate bread together there at Mizpah,

<sup>2</sup> Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men with him rose up and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, with the sword, and killed

him, whom the king of Babylon had appointed governor in the land.

<sup>3</sup> Ishmael also struck down all the Judeans who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldean soldiers who happened to be there.

<sup>4</sup> On the day after the murder of Gedaliah, before anyone knew of it,

<sup>5</sup> eighty men arrived from Shechem and Shiloh and Samaria, with their beards shaved and their clothes torn, and their bodies gashed, bringing grain offerings and incense to present at the temple of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah came out from Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he came. As he met them, he said to them, "Come in to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam."

<sup>7</sup> When they came into the city, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the men with

him slaughtered them and cast them into a cistern.

<sup>8</sup> But there were ten men among them who said to Ishmael, "Do not put us to death, for we have stores of wheat, barley, oil, and honey hidden in the fields." So he refrained and did not put them to death with their companions.

<sup>9</sup> Now the cistern into which Ishmael had thrown all the bodies of the men whom he had struck down along with Gedaliah was the large cistern that King Asa had made for defense against Baasha king of Israel; Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with the slain.

<sup>10</sup> Then Ishmael took captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king's daughters and all the people who were left at Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah

took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites.

<sup>11</sup> But when Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done,

<sup>12</sup> they took all their men and went to fight against Ishmael the son of Nethaniah. They came upon him at the great pool that is in Gibeon.

<sup>13</sup> And when all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him, they rejoiced.

<sup>14</sup> So all the people whom Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah turned around and came back, and went to Johanan the son of Kareah.

<sup>15</sup> But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men, and went to the Ammonites.

<sup>16</sup> Then Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him took from Mizpah all the rest of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, after he had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam--soldiers, women, children, and eunuchs, whom Johanan brought back from Gibeon.

<sup>17</sup> And they went and stayed at Geruth Chimham near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt

<sup>18</sup> because of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

**42** <sup>1</sup> Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah and Jezaniah the son of

Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest, came near

<sup>2</sup> and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the LORD your God for us, for all this remnant--because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us--

<sup>3</sup> that the LORD your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do."

<sup>4</sup> Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your request, and whatever the LORD answers you I will tell you. I will keep nothing back from you."

<sup>5</sup> Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to all the word with which the LORD your God sends you to us.

<sup>6</sup> Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God."

<sup>7</sup> At the end of ten days the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.

<sup>8</sup> Then he summoned Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest,

<sup>9</sup> and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea for mercy before him:

<sup>10</sup> If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I relent of the disaster that I did to you.

<sup>11</sup> Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the LORD, for I am with you,

to save you and to deliver you from his hand.

<sup>12</sup> I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land.

<sup>13</sup> But if you say, 'We will not remain in this land,' disobeying the voice of the LORD your God

<sup>14</sup> and saying, 'No, we will go to the land of Egypt, where we shall not see war or hear the sound of the trumpet or be hungry for bread, and we will dwell there,'

<sup>15</sup> then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live there,

<sup>16</sup> then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow close after you to Egypt, and there you shall die.

<sup>17</sup> All the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to live there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. They shall have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I will bring upon them.

<sup>18</sup> "For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: As my anger and my wrath were poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so my wrath will be poured out on you when you go to Egypt. You shall become an execration, a horror, a curse, and a taunt. You shall see this place no more.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD has said to you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt.' Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day

<sup>20</sup> that you have gone astray at the cost of your lives. For you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the LORD our God, and whatever the

LORD our God says declare to us and we will do it.'

<sup>21</sup> And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God in anything that he sent me to tell you.

<sup>22</sup> Now therefore know for a certainty that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to live."

**43** <sup>1</sup> When Jeremiah finished speaking to all the people all these words of the LORD their God, with which the LORD their God had sent him to them,

<sup>2</sup> Azariah the son of Hoshai and Johanan the son of Kareah and all the insolent men said to Jeremiah, "You are telling a lie. The LORD our God did not send you to say, 'Do not go to Egypt to live there,'

<sup>3</sup> but Baruch the son of Neriah has set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may kill us or take us into exile in Babylon."

<sup>4</sup> So Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces and all the people did not obey the voice of the LORD, to remain in the land of Judah.

<sup>5</sup> But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned to live in the land of Judah from all the nations to which they had been driven--

<sup>6</sup> the men, the women, the children, the princesses, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan; also Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah.

<sup>7</sup> And they came into the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the LORD. And they arrived at Tahpanhes.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes:

<sup>9</sup> "Take in your hands large stones and hide them in the mortar in the pavement that is at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah,

<sup>10</sup> and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will set his throne above these stones that I have hidden, and he will spread his royal canopy over them.

<sup>11</sup> He shall come and strike the land of Egypt, giving over to the pestilence those who are doomed to the pestilence, to captivity those who are doomed to

captivity, and to the sword those who are doomed to the sword.

<sup>12</sup> I shall kindle a fire in the temples of the gods of Egypt, and he shall burn them and carry them away captive. And he shall clean the land of Egypt as a shepherd cleans his cloak of vermin, and he shall go away from there in peace.

<sup>13</sup> He shall break the obelisks of Heliopolis, which is in the land of Egypt, and the temples of the gods of Egypt he shall burn with fire."

**44** <sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Judeans who lived in the land of Egypt, at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Memphis, and in the land of Pathros,

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You have seen all the disaster that I brought upon Jerusalem and upon all the cities of Judah. Behold, this day

they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them,

<sup>3</sup> because of the evil that they committed, provoking me to anger, in that they went to make offerings and serve other gods that they knew not, neither they, nor you, nor your fathers.

<sup>4</sup> Yet I persistently sent to you all my servants the prophets, saying, 'Oh, do not do this abomination that I hate!'

<sup>5</sup> But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their evil and make no offerings to other gods.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore my wrath and my anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, and they became a waste and a desolation, as at this day.

<sup>7</sup> And now thus says the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel: Why do you commit this great evil against yourselves, to cut off from you man and woman,

infant and child, from the midst of Judah, leaving you no remnant?

<sup>8</sup> Why do you provoke me to anger with the works of your hands, making offerings to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have come to live, so that you may be cut off and become a curse and a taunt among all the nations of the earth?

<sup>9</sup> Have you forgotten the evil of your fathers, the evil of the kings of Judah, the evil of their wives, your own evil, and the evil of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

<sup>10</sup> They have not humbled themselves even to this day, nor have they feared, nor walked in my law and my statutes that I set before you and before your fathers.

<sup>11</sup> "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will set

my face against you for harm, to cut off all Judah.

<sup>12</sup> I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to come to the land of Egypt to live, and they shall all be consumed. In the land of Egypt they shall fall; by the sword and by famine they shall be consumed. From the least to the greatest, they shall die by the sword and by famine, and they shall become an oath, a horror, a curse, and a taunt.

<sup>13</sup> I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence,

<sup>14</sup> so that none of the remnant of Judah who have come to live in the land of Egypt shall escape or survive or return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return to dwell there. For they shall not return, except some fugitives."

<sup>15</sup> Then all the men who knew that their wives had made offerings to other gods, and all the women who stood by, a great assembly, all the people who lived in Pathros in the land of Egypt, answered Jeremiah:

<sup>16</sup> "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you.

<sup>17</sup> But we will do everything that we have vowed, make offerings to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we did, both we and our fathers, our kings and our officials, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, and prospered, and saw no disaster.

<sup>18</sup> But since we left off making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked

everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine."

<sup>19</sup> And the women said, "When we made offerings to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, was it without our husbands' approval that we made cakes for her bearing her image and poured out drink offerings to her?"

<sup>20</sup> Then Jeremiah said to all the people, men and women, all the people who had given him this answer:

<sup>21</sup> "As for the offerings that you offered in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your officials, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them? Did it not come into his mind?

<sup>22</sup> The LORD could no longer bear your evil deeds and the abominations that you committed. Therefore your land has become a desolation and a waste and

a curse, without inhabitant, as it is this day.

<sup>23</sup> It is because you made offerings and because you sinned against the LORD and did not obey the voice of the LORD or walk in his law and in his statutes and in his testimonies that this disaster has happened to you, as at this day."

<sup>24</sup> Jeremiah said to all the people and all the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who are in the land of Egypt.

<sup>25</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You and your wives have declared with your mouths, and have fulfilled it with your hands, saying, 'We will surely perform our vows that we have made, to make offerings to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her.' Then confirm your vows and perform your vows!

<sup>26</sup> Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: Behold, I have sworn by my great name, says the LORD, that my name shall no more be invoked by the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, 'As the Lord GOD lives.'

<sup>27</sup> Behold, I am watching over them for disaster and not for good. All the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end of them.

<sup>28</sup> And those who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah, few in number; and all the remnant of Judah, who came to the land of Egypt to live, shall know whose word will stand, mine or theirs.

<sup>29</sup> This shall be the sign to you, declares the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, in order that you may know that

my words will surely stand against you for harm:

<sup>30</sup> Thus says the LORD, behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who was his enemy and sought his life."

**45** <sup>1</sup> The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a book at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch:

<sup>3</sup> You said, 'Woe is me! For the LORD has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.'

<sup>4</sup> Thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD: Behold, what I have built I am

breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up--that is, the whole land.

<sup>5</sup> And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go."

**46** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.

<sup>2</sup> About Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

<sup>3</sup> "Prepare buckler and shield, and advance for battle!

<sup>4</sup> Harness the horses; mount, O horsemen! Take your stations with your

helmets, polish your spears, put on your armor!

<sup>5</sup> Why have I seen it? They are dismayed and have turned backward. Their warriors are beaten down and have fled in haste; they look not back-- terror on every side! declares the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> The swift cannot flee away, nor the warrior escape; in the north by the river Euphrates they have stumbled and fallen.

<sup>7</sup> "Who is this, rising like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge?

<sup>8</sup> Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge. He said, 'I will rise, I will cover the earth, I will destroy cities and their inhabitants.'

<sup>9</sup> Advance, O horses, and rage, O chariots! Let the warriors go out: men of Cush and Put who handle the shield, men of Lud, skilled in handling the bow.

<sup>10</sup> That day is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, to avenge himself on his foes. The sword shall devour and be sated and drink its fill of their blood. For the Lord GOD of hosts holds a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

<sup>11</sup> Go up to Gilead, and take balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt! In vain you have used many medicines; there is no healing for you.

<sup>12</sup> The nations have heard of your shame, and the earth is full of your cry; for warrior has stumbled against warrior; they have both fallen together."

<sup>13</sup> The word that the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt:

<sup>14</sup> "Declare in Egypt, and proclaim in Migdol; proclaim in Memphis and Tahpanhes; Say, 'Stand ready and be

prepared, for the sword shall devour around you.'

<sup>15</sup> Why are your mighty ones face down? They do not stand because the LORD thrust them down.

<sup>16</sup> He made many stumble, and they fell, and they said one to another, 'Arise, and let us go back to our own people and to the land of our birth, because of the sword of the oppressor.'

<sup>17</sup> Call the name of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, 'Noisy one who lets the hour go by.'

<sup>18</sup> "As I live, declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, like Tabor among the mountains and like Carmel by the sea, shall one come.

<sup>19</sup> Prepare yourselves baggage for exile, O inhabitants of Egypt! For Memphis shall become a waste, a ruin, without inhabitant.

<sup>20</sup> "A beautiful heifer is Egypt, but a biting fly from the north has come upon her.

<sup>21</sup> Even her hired soldiers in her midst are like fattened calves; yes, they have turned and fled together; they did not stand, for the day of their calamity has come upon them, the time of their punishment.

<sup>22</sup> "She makes a sound like a serpent gliding away; for her enemies march in force and come against her with axes like those who fell trees.

<sup>23</sup> They shall cut down her forest, declares the LORD, though it is impenetrable, because they are more numerous than locusts; they are without number.

<sup>24</sup> The daughter of Egypt shall be put to shame; she shall be delivered into the hand of a people from the north."

<sup>25</sup> The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, said: "Behold, I am bringing punishment upon Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh and Egypt and her gods and her kings, upon Pharaoh and those who trust in him.

<sup>26</sup> I will deliver them into the hand of those who seek their life, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Afterward Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old, declares the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> "But fear not, O Jacob my servant, nor be dismayed, O Israel, for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid.

<sup>28</sup> Fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, for I am with you. I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you

in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished."

**47** <sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh struck down Gaza.

<sup>2</sup>"Thus says the LORD: Behold, waters are rising out of the north, and shall become an overflowing torrent; they shall overflow the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it. Men shall cry out, and every inhabitant of the land shall wail.

<sup>3</sup>At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his stallions, at the rushing of his chariots, at the rumbling of their wheels, the fathers look not back to their children, so feeble are their hands,

<sup>4</sup>because of the day that is coming to destroy all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and Sidon every helper that remains. For the LORD is destroying the

Philistines, the remnant of the coastland of Caphtor.

<sup>5</sup> Baldness has come upon Gaza; Ashkelon has perished. O remnant of their valley, how long will you gash yourselves?

<sup>6</sup> Ah, sword of the LORD! How long till you are quiet? Put yourself into your scabbard; rest and be still!

<sup>7</sup> How can it be quiet when the LORD has given it a charge? Against Ashkelon and against the seashore he has appointed it."

**48** <sup>1</sup> Concerning Moab. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Woe to Nebo, for it is laid waste! Kiriathaim is put to shame, it is taken; the fortress is put to shame and broken down;

<sup>2</sup> the renown of Moab is no more. In Heshbon they planned disaster against her: 'Come, let us cut her off from being

a nation!' You also, O Madmen, shall be brought to silence; the sword shall pursue you.

<sup>3</sup> "Hark! A cry from Horonaim, 'Desolation and great destruction!'

<sup>4</sup> Moab is destroyed; her little ones have made a cry.

<sup>5</sup> For at the ascent of Luhith they go up weeping; for at the descent of Horonaim they have heard the distressed cry of destruction.

<sup>6</sup> Flee! Save yourselves! You will be like a juniper in the desert!

<sup>7</sup> For, because you trusted in your works and your treasures, you also shall be taken; and Chemosh shall go into exile with his priests and his officials.

<sup>8</sup> The destroyer shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape; the valley shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> "Give wings to Moab, for she would fly away; her cities shall become a desolation, with no inhabitant in them.

<sup>10</sup> "Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD with slackness, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed.

<sup>11</sup> "Moab has been at ease from his youth and has settled on his dregs; he has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, nor has he gone into exile; so his taste remains in him, and his scent is not changed.

<sup>12</sup> "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I shall send to him pourers who will pour him, and empty his vessels and break his jars in pieces.

<sup>13</sup> Then Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel, their confidence.

<sup>14</sup> "How do you say, 'We are heroes and mighty men of war'?"

<sup>15</sup> The destroyer of Moab and his cities has come up, and the choicest of his young men have gone down to slaughter, declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

<sup>16</sup> The calamity of Moab is near at hand, and his affliction hastens swiftly.

<sup>17</sup> Grieve for him, all you who are around him, and all who know his name; say, 'How the mighty scepter is broken, the glorious staff.'

<sup>18</sup> "Come down from your glory, and sit on the parched ground, O inhabitant of Dibon! For the destroyer of Moab has come up against you; he has destroyed your strongholds.

<sup>19</sup> Stand by the way and watch, O inhabitant of Aroer! Ask him who flees and her who escapes; say, 'What has happened?'

<sup>20</sup> Moab is put to shame, for it is broken; wail and cry! Tell it beside the Arnon, that Moab is laid waste.

<sup>21</sup> "Judgment has come upon the tableland, upon Holon, and Jahzah, and Mephaath,

<sup>22</sup> and Dibon, and Nebo, and Beth-diblathaim,

<sup>23</sup> and Kiriathaim, and Beth-gamul, and Beth-meon,

<sup>24</sup> and Kerioth, and Bozrah, and all the cities of the land of Moab, far and near.

<sup>25</sup> The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, declares the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> "Make him drunk, because he magnified himself against the LORD, so that Moab shall wallow in his vomit, and he too shall be held in derision.

<sup>27</sup> Was not Israel a derision to you? Was he found among thieves, that whenever you spoke of him you wagged your head?

<sup>28</sup> "Leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, O inhabitants of Moab! Be like the dove that nests in the sides of the mouth of a gorge.

<sup>29</sup> We have heard of the pride of Moab-- he is very proud-- of his loftiness, his pride, and his arrogance, and the haughtiness of his heart.

<sup>30</sup> I know his insolence, declares the LORD; his boasts are false, his deeds are false.

<sup>31</sup> Therefore I wail for Moab; I cry out for all Moab; for the men of Kir-hareseth I mourn.

<sup>32</sup> More than for Jazer I weep for you, O vine of Sibmah! Your branches passed over the sea, reached to the Sea of Jazer; on your summer fruits and your grapes the destroyer has fallen.

<sup>33</sup> Gladness and joy have been taken away from the fruitful land of Moab; I have made the wine cease from the

winepresses; no one treads them with shouts of joy; the shouting is not the shout of joy.

<sup>34</sup> "From the outcry at Heshbon even to Elealeh, as far as Jahaz they utter their voice, from Zoar to Horonaim and Eglath-selishiyah. For the waters of Nimrim also have become desolate.

<sup>35</sup> And I will bring to an end in Moab, declares the LORD, him who offers sacrifice in the high place and makes offerings to his god.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore my heart moans for Moab like a flute, and my heart moans like a flute for the men of Kir-hareseth. Therefore the riches they gained have perished.

<sup>37</sup> "For every head is shaved and every beard cut off. On all the hands are gashes, and around the waist is sackcloth.

<sup>38</sup> On all the housetops of Moab and in the squares there is nothing but lamentation, for I have broken Moab like a vessel for which no one cares, declares the LORD.

<sup>39</sup> How it is broken! How they wail! How Moab has turned his back in shame! So Moab has become a derision and a horror to all that are around him."

<sup>40</sup> For thus says the LORD: "Behold, one shall fly swiftly like an eagle and spread his wings against Moab;

<sup>41</sup> the cities shall be taken and the strongholds seized. The heart of the warriors of Moab shall be in that day like the heart of a woman in her birth pains;

<sup>42</sup> Moab shall be destroyed and be no longer a people, because he magnified himself against the LORD.

<sup>43</sup> Terror, pit, and snare are before you, O inhabitant of Moab! declares the LORD.

<sup>44</sup> He who flees from the terror shall fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit shall be caught in the snare. For I will bring these things upon Moab, the year of their punishment, declares the LORD.

<sup>45</sup> "In the shadow of Heshbon fugitives stop without strength, for fire came out from Heshbon, flame from the house of Sihon; it has destroyed the forehead of Moab, the crown of the sons of tumult.

<sup>46</sup> Woe to you, O Moab! The people of Chemosh are undone, for your sons have been taken captive, and your daughters into captivity.

<sup>47</sup> Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in the latter days, declares the LORD." Thus far is the judgment on Moab.

**49** <sup>1</sup> Concerning the Ammonites. Thus says the LORD: "Has Israel no sons? Has he no heir? Why then

has Milcom dispossessed Gad, and his people settled in its cities?

<sup>2</sup> Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will cause the battle cry to be heard against Rabbah of the Ammonites; it shall become a desolate mound, and its villages shall be burned with fire; then Israel shall dispossess those who dispossessed him, says the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> "Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai is laid waste! Cry out, O daughters of Rabbah! put on sackcloth, lament, and run to and fro among the hedges! For Milcom shall go into exile, with his priests and his officials.

<sup>4</sup> Why do you boast of your valleys, O faithless daughter, who trusted in her treasures, saying, 'Who will come against me?'

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I will bring terror upon you, declares the Lord GOD of hosts, from all

who are around you, and you shall be driven out, every man straight before him, with none to gather the fugitives.

<sup>6</sup> "But afterward I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites, declares the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> Concerning Edom. Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?"

<sup>8</sup> Flee, turn back, dwell in the depths, O inhabitants of Dedan! For I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time when I punish him.

<sup>9</sup> If grape-gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings? If thieves came by night, would they not destroy only enough for themselves?

<sup>10</sup> But I have stripped Esau bare; I have uncovered his hiding places, and he is not able to conceal himself. His children

are destroyed, and his brothers, and his neighbors; and he is no more.

<sup>11</sup> Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me."

<sup>12</sup> For thus says the LORD: "If those who did not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, will you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, but you must drink.

<sup>13</sup> For I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, that Bozrah shall become a horror, a taunt, a waste, and a curse, and all her cities shall be perpetual wastes."

<sup>14</sup> I have heard a message from the LORD, and an envoy has been sent among the nations: "Gather yourselves together and come against her, and rise up for battle!

<sup>15</sup> For behold, I will make you small among the nations, despised among mankind.

<sup>16</sup> The horror you inspire has deceived you, and the pride of your heart, you who live in the clefts of the rock, who hold the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as the eagle's, I will bring you down from there, declares the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> "Edom shall become a horror. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its disasters.

<sup>18</sup> As when Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring cities were overthrown, says the LORD, no man shall dwell there, no man shall sojourn in her.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, like a lion coming up from the jungle of the Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly make him run away from her. And I will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What shepherd can stand before me?

<sup>20</sup> Therefore hear the plan that the LORD has made against Edom and the purposes that he has formed against the inhabitants of Teman: Even the little ones of the flock shall be dragged away. Surely their fold shall be appalled at their fate.

<sup>21</sup> At the sound of their fall the earth shall tremble; the sound of their cry shall be heard at the Red Sea.

<sup>22</sup> Behold, one shall mount up and fly swiftly like an eagle and spread his wings against Bozrah, and the heart of the warriors of Edom shall be in that day like the heart of a woman in her birth pains."

<sup>23</sup> Concerning Damascus: "Hamath and Arpad are confounded, for they have heard bad news; they melt in fear, they are troubled like the sea that cannot be quiet.

<sup>24</sup> Damascus has become feeble, she turned to flee, and panic seized her;

anguish and sorrows have taken hold of her, as of a woman in labor.

<sup>25</sup> How is the famous city not forsaken, the city of my joy?

<sup>26</sup> Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed in that day, declares the LORD of hosts.

<sup>27</sup> And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad."

<sup>28</sup> Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon struck down. Thus says the LORD: "Rise up, advance against Kedar! Destroy the people of the east!

<sup>29</sup> Their tents and their flocks shall be taken, their curtains and all their goods; their camels shall be led away from them, and men shall cry to them: 'Terror on every side!'

<sup>30</sup> Flee, wander far away, dwell in the depths, O inhabitants of Hazor! declares the LORD. For Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has made a plan against you and formed a purpose against you.

<sup>31</sup> "Rise up, advance against a nation at ease, that dwells securely, declares the LORD, that has no gates or bars, that dwells alone.

<sup>32</sup> Their camels shall become plunder, their herds of livestock a spoil. I will scatter to every wind those who cut the corners of their hair, and I will bring their calamity from every side of them, declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> Hazor shall become a haunt of jackals, an everlasting waste; no man shall dwell there; no man shall sojourn in her."

<sup>34</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam,

in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah.

<sup>35</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might.

<sup>36</sup> And I will bring upon Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven. And I will scatter them to all those winds, and there shall be no nation to which those driven out of Elam shall not come.

<sup>37</sup> I will terrify Elam before their enemies and before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, my fierce anger, declares the LORD. I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them,

<sup>38</sup> and I will set my throne in Elam and destroy their king and officials, declares the LORD.

<sup>39</sup> "But in the latter days I will restore the fortunes of Elam, declares the LORD."

**50** <sup>1</sup> The word that the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, by Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>2</sup> "Declare among the nations and proclaim, set up a banner and proclaim, conceal it not, and say: 'Babylon is taken, Bel is put to shame, Merodach is dismayed. Her images are put to shame, her idols are dismayed.'

<sup>3</sup> "For out of the north a nation has come up against her, which shall make her land a desolation, and none shall dwell in it; both man and beast shall flee away.

<sup>4</sup> "In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the LORD their God.

<sup>5</sup> They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, 'Come,

let us join ourselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.'

<sup>6</sup> "My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold.

<sup>7</sup> All who found them have devoured them, and their enemies have said, 'We are not guilty, for they have sinned against the LORD, their habitation of righteousness, the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

<sup>8</sup> "Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as male goats before the flock.

<sup>9</sup> For behold, I am stirring up and bringing against Babylon a gathering of great nations, from the north country. And they shall array themselves against her. From there she shall be taken. Their

arrows are like a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed.

<sup>10</sup> Chaldea shall be plundered; all who plunder her shall be sated, declares the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> "Though you rejoice, though you exult, O plunderers of my heritage, though you frolic like a heifer in the pasture, and neigh like stallions,

<sup>12</sup> your mother shall be utterly shamed, and she who bore you shall be disgraced. Behold, she shall be the last of the nations, a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

<sup>13</sup> Because of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited but shall be an utter desolation; everyone who passes by Babylon shall be appalled, and hiss because of all her wounds.

<sup>14</sup> Set yourselves in array against Babylon all around, all you who bend the

bow; shoot at her, spare no arrows, for she has sinned against the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Raise a shout against her all around; she has surrendered; her bulwarks have fallen; her walls are thrown down. For this is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance on her; do to her as she has done.

<sup>16</sup> Cut off from Babylon the sower, and the one who handles the sickle in time of harvest; because of the sword of the oppressor, every one shall turn to his own people, and every one shall flee to his own land.

<sup>17</sup> "Israel is a hunted sheep driven away by lions. First the king of Assyria devoured him, and now at last Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has gnawed his bones.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing punishment on the king of

Babylon and his land, as I punished the king of Assyria.

<sup>19</sup> I will restore Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead.

<sup>20</sup> In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none. And sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.

<sup>21</sup> "Go up against the land of Merathaim, and against the inhabitants of Pekod. Kill, and devote them to destruction, declares the LORD, and do all that I have commanded you.

<sup>22</sup> The noise of battle is in the land, and great destruction!

<sup>23</sup> How the hammer of the whole earth is cut down and broken! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations!

<sup>24</sup> I set a snare for you and you were taken, O Babylon, and you did not know it; you were found and caught, because you opposed the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD has opened his armory and brought out the weapons of his wrath, for the Lord GOD of hosts has a work to do in the land of the Chaldeans.

<sup>26</sup> Come against her from every quarter; open her granaries; pile her up like heaps of grain, and devote her to destruction; let nothing be left of her.

<sup>27</sup> Kill all her bulls; let them go down to the slaughter. Woe to them, for their day has come, the time of their punishment.

<sup>28</sup> "A voice! They flee and escape from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple.

<sup>29</sup> "Summon archers against Babylon, all those who bend the bow. Encamp around her; let no one escape. Repay

her according to her deeds; do to her according to all that she has done. For she has proudly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed on that day, declares the LORD.

<sup>31</sup> "Behold, I am against you, O proud one, declares the Lord GOD of hosts, for your day has come, the time when I will punish you.

<sup>32</sup> The proud one shall stumble and fall, with none to raise him up, and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it will devour all that is around him.

<sup>33</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah with them. All who took them captive have held them fast; they refuse to let them go.

<sup>34</sup> Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will surely plead their cause, that he may give rest to the earth, but unrest to the inhabitants of Babylon.

<sup>35</sup> "A sword against the Chaldeans, declares the LORD, and against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her officials and her wise men!

<sup>36</sup> A sword against the diviners, that they may become fools! A sword against her warriors, that they may be destroyed!

<sup>37</sup> A sword against her horses and against her chariots, and against all the foreign troops in her midst, that they may become women! A sword against all her treasures, that they may be plundered!

<sup>38</sup> A drought against her waters, that they may be dried up! For it is a land of images, and they are mad over idols.

<sup>39</sup> "Therefore wild beasts shall dwell with hyenas in Babylon, and ostriches shall dwell in her. She shall never again have people, nor be inhabited for all generations.

<sup>40</sup> As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring cities, declares the LORD, so no man shall dwell there, and no son of man shall sojourn in her.

<sup>41</sup> "Behold, a people comes from the north; a mighty nation and many kings are stirring from the farthest parts of the earth.

<sup>42</sup> They lay hold of bow and spear; they are cruel and have no mercy. The sound of them is like the roaring of the sea; they ride on horses, arrayed as a man for battle against you, O daughter of Babylon!

<sup>43</sup> "The king of Babylon heard the report of them, and his hands fell helpless;

anguish seized him, pain as of a woman in labor.

<sup>44</sup> "Behold, like a lion coming up from the thicket of the Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly make them run away from her, and I will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What shepherd can stand before me?"

<sup>45</sup> Therefore hear the plan that the LORD has made against Babylon, and the purposes that he has formed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the little ones of their flock shall be dragged away; surely their fold shall be appalled at their fate.

<sup>46</sup> At the sound of the capture of Babylon the earth shall tremble, and her cry shall be heard among the nations."

**51** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will stir up the spirit of a destroyer

against Babylon, against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai,

<sup>2</sup> and I will send to Babylon winnowers, and they shall winnow her, and they shall empty her land, when they come against her from every side on the day of trouble.

<sup>3</sup> Let not the archer bend his bow, and let him not stand up in his armor. Spare not her young men; devote to destruction all her army.

<sup>4</sup> They shall fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans, and wounded in her streets.

<sup>5</sup> For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD of hosts, but the land of the Chaldeans is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>6</sup> "Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of

the LORD's vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her.

<sup>7</sup> Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad.

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her! Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed.

<sup>9</sup> We would have healed Babylon, but she was not healed. Forsake her, and let us go each to his own country, for her judgment has reached up to heaven and has been lifted up even to the skies.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has brought about our vindication; come, let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.

<sup>11</sup> "Sharpen the arrows! Take up the shields! The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes, because his purpose concerning Babylon is to

destroy it, for that is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance for his temple.

<sup>12</sup> "Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon; make the watch strong; set up watchmen; prepare the ambushes; for the LORD has both planned and done what he spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

<sup>13</sup> O you who dwell by many waters, rich in treasures, your end has come; the thread of your life is cut.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: Surely I will fill you with men, as many as locusts, and they shall raise the shout of victory over you.

<sup>15</sup> "It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

<sup>16</sup> When he utters his voice there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the

earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

<sup>17</sup> Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them.

<sup>18</sup> They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

<sup>19</sup> Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name.

<sup>20</sup> "You are my hammer and weapon of war: with you I break nations in pieces; with you I destroy kingdoms;

<sup>21</sup> with you I break in pieces the horse and his rider; with you I break in pieces the chariot and the charioteer;

<sup>22</sup> with you I break in pieces man and woman; with you I break in pieces the old man and the youth; with you I break in pieces the young man and the young woman;

<sup>23</sup> with you I break in pieces the shepherd and his flock; with you I break in pieces the farmer and his team; with you I break in pieces governors and commanders.

<sup>24</sup> "I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes for all the evil that they have done in Zion, declares the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain.

<sup>26</sup> No stone shall be taken from you for a corner and no stone for a foundation,

but you shall be a perpetual waste, declares the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> "Set up a standard on the earth; blow the trumpet among the nations; prepare the nations for war against her; summon against her the kingdoms, Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz; appoint a marshal against her; bring up horses like bristling locusts.

<sup>28</sup> Prepare the nations for war against her, the kings of the Medes, with their governors and deputies, and every land under their dominion.

<sup>29</sup> The land trembles and writhes in pain, for the LORD's purposes against Babylon stand, to make the land of Babylon a desolation, without inhabitant.

<sup>30</sup> The warriors of Babylon have ceased fighting; they remain in their strongholds; their strength has failed; they have become women; her dwellings are on fire; her bars are broken.

<sup>31</sup> One runner runs to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to tell the king of Babylon that his city is taken on every side;

<sup>32</sup> the fords have been seized, the marshes are burned with fire, and the soldiers are in panic.

<sup>33</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time when it is trodden; yet a little while and the time of her harvest will come."

<sup>34</sup> "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me; he has crushed me; he has made me an empty vessel; he has swallowed me like a monster; he has filled his stomach with my delicacies; he has rinsed me out.

<sup>35</sup> The violence done to me and to my kinsmen be upon Babylon," let the inhabitant of Zion say. "My blood be

upon the inhabitants of Chaldea," let Jerusalem say.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD:

"Behold, I will plead your cause and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her fountain dry,

<sup>37</sup> and Babylon shall become a heap of ruins, the haunt of jackals, a horror and a hissing, without inhabitant.

<sup>38</sup> "They shall roar together like lions; they shall growl like lions' cubs.

<sup>39</sup> While they are inflamed I will prepare them a feast and make them drunk, that they may become merry, then sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, declares the LORD.

<sup>40</sup> I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams and male goats.

<sup>41</sup> "How Babylon is taken, the praise of the whole earth seized! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations!

<sup>42</sup> The sea has come up on Babylon; she is covered with its tumultuous waves.

<sup>43</sup> Her cities have become a horror, a land of drought and a desert, a land in which no one dwells, and through which no son of man passes.

<sup>44</sup> And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and take out of his mouth what he has swallowed. The nations shall no longer flow to him; the wall of Babylon has fallen.

<sup>45</sup> "Go out of the midst of her, my people! Let every one save his life from the fierce anger of the LORD!

<sup>46</sup> Let not your heart faint, and be not fearful at the report heard in the land, when a report comes in one year and afterward a report in another year, and violence is in the land, and ruler is against ruler.

<sup>47</sup> "Therefore, behold, the days are coming when I will punish the images of

Babylon; her whole land shall be put to shame, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

<sup>48</sup> Then the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them, shall sing for joy over Babylon, for the destroyers shall come against them out of the north, declares the LORD.

<sup>49</sup> Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel, just as for Babylon have fallen the slain of all the earth.

<sup>50</sup> "You who have escaped from the sword, go, do not stand still! Remember the LORD from far away, and let Jerusalem come into your mind:

<sup>51</sup> 'We are put to shame, for we have heard reproach; dishonor has covered our face, for foreigners have come into the holy places of the LORD's house.'

<sup>52</sup> "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will execute judgment upon her images, and

through all her land the wounded shall groan.

<sup>53</sup> Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify her strong height, yet destroyers would come from me against her, declares the LORD.

<sup>54</sup> "A voice! A cry from Babylon! The noise of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans!

<sup>55</sup> For the LORD is laying Babylon waste and stilling her mighty voice. Their waves roar like many waters; the noise of their voice is raised,

<sup>56</sup> for a destroyer has come upon her, upon Babylon; her warriors are taken; their bows are broken in pieces, for the LORD is a God of recompense; he will surely repay.

<sup>57</sup> I will make drunk her officials and her wise men, her governors, her commanders, and her warriors; they

shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

<sup>58</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The broad wall of Babylon shall be leveled to the ground, and her high gates shall be burned with fire. The peoples labor for nothing, and the nations weary themselves only for fire."

<sup>59</sup> The word that Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon, in the fourth year of his reign. Seraiah was the quartermaster.

<sup>60</sup> Jeremiah wrote in a book all the disaster that should come upon Babylon, all these words that are written concerning Babylon.

<sup>61</sup> And Jeremiah said to Seraiah: "When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words,

<sup>62</sup> and say, 'O LORD, you have said concerning this place that you will cut it off, so that nothing shall dwell in it, neither man nor beast, and it shall be desolate forever.'

<sup>63</sup> When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates,

<sup>64</sup> and say, 'Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.'" Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

**52** <sup>1</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

<sup>2</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

<sup>3</sup> For because of the anger of the LORD things came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out from his presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it.

<sup>5</sup> So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

<sup>6</sup> On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

<sup>7</sup> Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled and went out from the city by night by the way of a gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, while the Chaldeans were

around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah.

<sup>8</sup> But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. And all his army was scattered from him.

<sup>9</sup> Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

<sup>10</sup> The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also slaughtered all the officials of Judah at Riblah.

<sup>11</sup> He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

<sup>12</sup> In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month--that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon--Nebuzaradan the captain of

the bodyguard, who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> And he burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down.

<sup>14</sup> And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive some of the poorest of the people and the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the artisans.

<sup>16</sup> But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.

<sup>17</sup> And the pillars of bronze that were in the house of the LORD, and the stands

and the bronze sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried all the bronze to Babylon.

<sup>18</sup> And they took away the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the basins and the dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service;

<sup>19</sup> also the small bowls and the fire pans and the basins and the pots and the lampstands and the dishes for incense and the bowls for drink offerings. What was of gold the captain of the guard took away as gold, and what was of silver, as silver.

<sup>20</sup> As for the two pillars, the one sea, the twelve bronze bulls that were under the sea, and the stands, which Solomon the king had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these things was beyond weight.

<sup>21</sup> As for the pillars, the height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, its circumference was twelve cubits, and its thickness was four fingers, and it was hollow.

<sup>22</sup> On it was a capital of bronze. The height of the one capital was five cubits. A network and pomegranates, all of bronze, were around the capital. And the second pillar had the same, with pomegranates.

<sup>23</sup> There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates were a hundred upon the network all around.

<sup>24</sup> And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the threshold;

<sup>25</sup> and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the men of war, and seven men of the king's council, who were found in the city; and

the secretary of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land, who were found in the midst of the city.

<sup>26</sup> And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

<sup>27</sup> And the king of Babylon struck them down, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile out of its land.

<sup>28</sup> This is the number of the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year, 3,023 Judeans;

<sup>29</sup> in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem 832 persons;

<sup>30</sup> in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away

captive of the Judeans 745 persons; all the persons were 4,600.

<sup>31</sup> And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he became king, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison.

<sup>32</sup> And he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

<sup>33</sup> So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table,

<sup>34</sup> and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king according to his daily need, until the day of his death as long as he lived.

# Lamentations

**1** <sup>1</sup> How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.

<sup>2</sup> She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.

<sup>3</sup> Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

<sup>4</sup> The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival; all her gates are

desolate; her priests groan; her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly.

<sup>5</sup> Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the LORD has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

<sup>6</sup> From the daughter of Zion all her majesty has departed. Her princes have become like deer that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

<sup>7</sup> Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and wandering all the precious things that were hers from days of old. When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her, her foes gloated over her; they mocked at her downfall.

<sup>8</sup> Jerusalem sinned grievously; therefore she became filthy; all who

honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; she herself groans and turns her face away.

<sup>9</sup> Her uncleanness was in her skirts; she took no thought of her future; therefore her fall is terrible; she has no comforter. "O LORD, behold my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!"

<sup>10</sup> The enemy has stretched out his hands over all her precious things; for she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary, those whom you forbade to enter your congregation.

<sup>11</sup> All her people groan as they search for bread; they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength. "Look, O LORD, and see, for I am despised."

<sup>12</sup> "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

<sup>13</sup> "From on high he sent fire; into my bones he made it descend; he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back; he has left me stunned, faint all the day long.

<sup>14</sup> "My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; they were set upon my neck; he caused my strength to fail; the Lord gave me into the hands of those whom I cannot withstand.

<sup>15</sup> "The Lord rejected all my mighty men in my midst; he summoned an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah.

<sup>16</sup> "For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed."

<sup>17</sup> Zion stretches out her hands, but there is none to comfort her; the LORD has commanded against Jacob that his neighbors should be his foes; Jerusalem has become a filthy thing among them.

<sup>18</sup> "The LORD is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word; but hear, all you peoples, and see my suffering; my young women and my young men have gone into captivity.

<sup>19</sup> "I called to my lovers, but they deceived me; my priests and elders perished in the city, while they sought food to revive their strength.

<sup>20</sup> "Look, O LORD, for I am in distress; my stomach churns; my heart is wrung within me, because I have been very rebellious. In the street the sword bereaves; in the house it is like death.

<sup>21</sup> "They heard my groaning, yet there is no one to comfort me. All my enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad

that you have done it. You have brought the day you announced; now let them be as I am.

<sup>22</sup> "Let all their evildoing come before you, and deal with them as you have dealt with me because of all my transgressions; for my groans are many, and my heart is faint."

**2** <sup>1</sup> How the Lord in his anger has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud! He has cast down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord has swallowed up without mercy all the habitations of Jacob; in his wrath he has broken down the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; he has brought down to the ground in dishonor the kingdom and its rulers.

<sup>3</sup> He has cut down in fierce anger all the might of Israel; he has withdrawn from

them his right hand in the face of the enemy; he has burned like a flaming fire in Jacob, consuming all around.

<sup>4</sup> He has bent his bow like an enemy, with his right hand set like a foe; and he has killed all who were delightful in our eyes in the tent of the daughter of Zion; he has poured out his fury like fire.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord has become like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel; he has swallowed up all its palaces; he has laid in ruins its strongholds, and he has multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

<sup>6</sup> He has laid waste his booth like a garden, laid in ruins his meeting place; the LORD has made Zion forget festival and Sabbath, and in his fierce indignation has spurned king and priest.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord has scorned his altar, disowned his sanctuary; he has delivered into the hand of the enemy the walls

of her palaces; they raised a clamor in the house of the LORD as on the day of festival.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD determined to lay in ruins the wall of the daughter of Zion; he stretched out the measuring line; he did not restrain his hand from destroying; he caused rampart and wall to lament; they languished together.

<sup>9</sup> Her gates have sunk into the ground; he has ruined and broken her bars; her king and princes are among the nations; the law is no more, and her prophets find no vision from the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have thrown dust on their heads and put on sackcloth; the young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

<sup>11</sup> My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns; my bile is poured out to

the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because infants and babies faint in the streets of the city.

<sup>12</sup> They cry to their mothers, "Where is bread and wine?" as they faint like a wounded man in the streets of the city, as their life is poured out on their mothers' bosom.

<sup>13</sup> What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is vast as the sea; who can heal you?

<sup>14</sup> Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading.

<sup>15</sup> All who pass along the way clap their hands at you; they hiss and wag their

heads at the daughter of Jerusalem;  
"Is this the city that was called the  
perfection of beauty, the joy of all the  
earth?"

<sup>16</sup> All your enemies rail against you;  
they hiss, they gnash their teeth, they  
cry: "We have swallowed her! Ah, this is  
the day we longed for; now we have it;  
we see it!"

<sup>17</sup> The LORD has done what he  
purposed; he has carried out his word,  
which he commanded long ago; he has  
thrown down without pity; he has made  
the enemy rejoice over you and exalted  
the might of your foes.

<sup>18</sup> Their heart cried to the Lord. O wall  
of the daughter of Zion, let tears stream  
down like a torrent day and night! Give  
yourself no rest, your eyes no respite!

<sup>19</sup> "Arise, cry out in the night, at the  
beginning of the night watches! Pour  
out your heart like water before the

presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street."

<sup>20</sup> Look, O LORD, and see! With whom have you dealt thus? Should women eat the fruit of their womb, the children of their tender care? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord?

<sup>21</sup> In the dust of the streets lie the young and the old; my young women and my young men have fallen by the sword; you have killed them in the day of your anger, slaughtering without pity.

<sup>22</sup> You summoned as if to a festival day my terrors on every side, and on the day of the anger of the LORD no one escaped or survived; those whom I held and raised my enemy destroyed.

**3** <sup>1</sup> I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath;

<sup>2</sup> he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;

<sup>3</sup> surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long.

<sup>4</sup> He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones;

<sup>5</sup> he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation;

<sup>6</sup> he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago.

<sup>7</sup> He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy;

<sup>8</sup> though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer;

<sup>9</sup> he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked.

<sup>10</sup> He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding;

<sup>11</sup> he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate;

<sup>12</sup> he bent his bow and set me as a target for his arrow.

<sup>13</sup> He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver;

<sup>14</sup> I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the object of their taunts all day long.

<sup>15</sup> He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood.

<sup>16</sup> He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes;

<sup>17</sup> my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;

<sup>18</sup> so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD."

<sup>19</sup> Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!

<sup>20</sup> My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.

<sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

<sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

<sup>28</sup> Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him;

<sup>29</sup> let him put his mouth in the dust-- there may yet be hope;

<sup>30</sup> let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults.

<sup>31</sup> For the Lord will not cast off forever,

<sup>32</sup> but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

<sup>33</sup> for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

<sup>34</sup> To crush underfoot all the prisoners of the earth,

<sup>35</sup> to deny a man justice in the presence of the Most High,

<sup>36</sup> to subvert a man in his lawsuit, the Lord does not approve.

<sup>37</sup> Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?

<sup>38</sup> Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

<sup>39</sup> Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins?

<sup>40</sup> Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD!

<sup>41</sup> Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven:

<sup>42</sup> "We have transgressed and rebelled,  
and you have not forgiven.

<sup>43</sup> "You have wrapped yourself with  
anger and pursued us, killing without  
pity;

<sup>44</sup> you have wrapped yourself with a  
cloud so that no prayer can pass through.

<sup>45</sup> You have made us scum and garbage  
among the peoples.

<sup>46</sup> "All our enemies open their mouths  
against us;

<sup>47</sup> panic and pitfall have come upon us,  
devastation and destruction;

<sup>48</sup> my eyes flow with rivers of tears  
because of the destruction of the  
daughter of my people.

<sup>49</sup> "My eyes will flow without ceasing,  
without respite,

<sup>50</sup> until the LORD from heaven looks  
down and sees;

<sup>51</sup> my eyes cause me grief at the fate of  
all the daughters of my city.

<sup>52</sup> "I have been hunted like a bird by those who were my enemies without cause;

<sup>53</sup> they flung me alive into the pit and cast stones on me;

<sup>54</sup> water closed over my head; I said, 'I am lost.'

<sup>55</sup> "I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit;

<sup>56</sup> you heard my plea, 'Do not close your ear to my cry for help!'

<sup>57</sup> You came near when I called on you; you said, 'Do not fear!'

<sup>58</sup> "You have taken up my cause, O Lord; you have redeemed my life.

<sup>59</sup> You have seen the wrong done to me, O LORD; judge my cause.

<sup>60</sup> You have seen all their vengeance, all their plots against me.

<sup>61</sup> "You have heard their taunts, O LORD, all their plots against me.

<sup>62</sup> The lips and thoughts of my assailants are against me all the day long.

<sup>63</sup> Behold their sitting and their rising; I am the object of their taunts.

<sup>64</sup> "You will repay them, O LORD, according to the work of their hands.

<sup>65</sup> You will give them dullness of heart; your curse will be on them.

<sup>66</sup> You will pursue them in anger and destroy them from under your heavens, O LORD."

**4** <sup>1</sup> How the gold has grown dim, how the pure gold is changed! The holy stones lie scattered at the head of every street.

<sup>2</sup> The precious sons of Zion, worth their weight in fine gold, how they are regarded as earthen pots, the work of a potter's hands!

<sup>3</sup> Even jackals offer the breast; they nurse their young, but the daughter of

my people has become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.

<sup>4</sup> The tongue of the nursing infant sticks to the roof of its mouth for thirst; the children beg for food, but no one gives to them.

<sup>5</sup> Those who once feasted on delicacies perish in the streets; those who were brought up in purple embrace ash heaps.

<sup>6</sup> For the chastisement of the daughter of my people has been greater than the punishment of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment, and no hands were wrung for her.

<sup>7</sup> Her princes were purer than snow, whiter than milk; their bodies were more ruddy than coral, the beauty of their form was like sapphire.

<sup>8</sup> Now their face is blacker than soot; they are not recognized in the streets; their skin has shriveled on their bones; it has become as dry as wood.

<sup>9</sup> Happier were the victims of the sword than the victims of hunger, who wasted away, pierced by lack of the fruits of the field.

<sup>10</sup> The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children; they became their food during the destruction of the daughter of my people.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD gave full vent to his wrath; he poured out his hot anger, and he kindled a fire in Zion that consumed its foundations.

<sup>12</sup> The kings of the earth did not believe, nor any of the inhabitants of the world, that foe or enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> This was for the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed in the midst of her the blood of the righteous.

<sup>14</sup> They wandered, blind, through the streets; they were so defiled with blood

that no one was able to touch their garments.

<sup>15</sup> "Away! Unclean!" people cried at them. "Away! Away! Do not touch!" So they became fugitives and wanderers; people said among the nations, "They shall stay with us no longer."

<sup>16</sup> The LORD himself has scattered them; he will regard them no more; no honor was shown to the priests, no favor to the elders.

<sup>17</sup> Our eyes failed, ever watching vainly for help; in our watching we watched for a nation which could not save.

<sup>18</sup> They dogged our steps so that we could not walk in our streets; our end drew near; our days were numbered, for our end had come.

<sup>19</sup> Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles in the heavens; they chased us on the mountains; they lay in wait for us in the wilderness.

<sup>20</sup> The breath of our nostrils, the LORD's anointed, was captured in their pits, of whom we said, "Under his shadow we shall live among the nations."

<sup>21</sup> Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, you who dwell in the land of Uz; but to you also the cup shall pass; you shall become drunk and strip yourself bare.

<sup>22</sup> The punishment of your iniquity, O daughter of Zion, is accomplished; he will keep you in exile no longer; but your iniquity, O daughter of Edom, he will punish; he will uncover your sins.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace!

<sup>2</sup> Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners.

<sup>3</sup> We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows.

<sup>4</sup> We must pay for the water we drink;  
the wood we get must be bought.

<sup>5</sup> Our pursuers are at our necks; we are  
weary; we are given no rest.

<sup>6</sup> We have given the hand to Egypt, and  
to Assyria, to get bread enough.

<sup>7</sup> Our fathers sinned, and are no more;  
and we bear their iniquities.

<sup>8</sup> Slaves rule over us; there is none to  
deliver us from their hand.

<sup>9</sup> We get our bread at the peril of  
our lives, because of the sword in the  
wilderness.

<sup>10</sup> Our skin is hot as an oven with the  
burning heat of famine.

<sup>11</sup> Women are raped in Zion, young  
women in the towns of Judah.

<sup>12</sup> Princes are hung up by their hands;  
no respect is shown to the elders.

<sup>13</sup> Young men are compelled to grind at  
the mill, and boys stagger under loads of  
wood.

<sup>14</sup> The old men have left the city gate,  
the young men their music.

<sup>15</sup> The joy of our hearts has ceased; our  
dancing has been turned to mourning.

<sup>16</sup> The crown has fallen from our head;  
woe to us, for we have sinned!

<sup>17</sup> For this our heart has become sick,  
for these things our eyes have grown  
dim,

<sup>18</sup> for Mount Zion which lies desolate;  
jackals prowl over it.

<sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, reign forever; your  
throne endures to all generations.

<sup>20</sup> Why do you forget us forever, why do  
you forsake us for so many days?

<sup>21</sup> Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that  
we may be restored! Renew our days as  
of old--

<sup>22</sup> unless you have utterly rejected us,  
and you remain exceedingly angry with  
us.

# Ezekiel

**1** <sup>1</sup> In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

<sup>2</sup> On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin),

<sup>3</sup> the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the LORD was upon him there.

<sup>4</sup> As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the

midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal.

<sup>5</sup> And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness,

<sup>6</sup> but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

<sup>7</sup> Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze.

<sup>8</sup> Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus:

<sup>9</sup> their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went.

<sup>10</sup> As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had

the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle.

<sup>11</sup> Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies.

<sup>12</sup> And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went.

<sup>13</sup> As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living creatures. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

<sup>14</sup> And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning.

<sup>15</sup> Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth

beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them.

<sup>16</sup> As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl. And the four had the same likeness, their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel.

<sup>17</sup> When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went.

<sup>18</sup> And their rims were tall and awesome, and the rims of all four were full of eyes all around.

<sup>19</sup> And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose.

<sup>20</sup> Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

<sup>21</sup> When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

<sup>22</sup> Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads.

<sup>23</sup> And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body.

<sup>24</sup> And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings.

<sup>25</sup> And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When

they stood still, they let down their wings.

<sup>26</sup> And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.

<sup>27</sup> And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him.

<sup>28</sup> Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

**2**<sup>1</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you."

<sup>2</sup> And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.

<sup>4</sup> The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'

<sup>5</sup> And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

<sup>6</sup> And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you

and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>7</sup> And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>8</sup> "But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

<sup>9</sup> And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.

<sup>10</sup> And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

**3**<sup>1</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel."

<sup>2</sup> So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

<sup>4</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them.

<sup>5</sup> For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel--

<sup>6</sup> not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you.

<sup>7</sup> But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.

<sup>8</sup> Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

<sup>9</sup> Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house."

<sup>10</sup> Moreover, he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears.

<sup>11</sup> And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."

<sup>12</sup> Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake: "Blessed be the glory of the LORD from its place!"

<sup>13</sup> It was the sound of the wings of the living creatures as they touched one another, and the sound of the wheels

beside them, and the sound of a great earthquake.

<sup>14</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the LORD being strong upon me.

<sup>15</sup> And I came to the exiles at Tel-abib, who were dwelling by the Chebar canal, and I sat where they were dwelling. And I sat there overwhelmed among them seven days.

<sup>16</sup> And at the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>17</sup> "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.

<sup>18</sup> If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that

wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

<sup>19</sup> But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>20</sup> Again, if a righteous person turns from his righteousness and commits injustice, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deeds that he has done shall not be remembered, but his blood I will require at your hand.

<sup>21</sup> But if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning, and you will have delivered your soul."

<sup>22</sup> And the hand of the LORD was upon me there. And he said to me, "Arise, go

out into the valley, and there I will speak with you."

<sup>23</sup> So I arose and went out into the valley, and behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the Chebar canal, and I fell on my face.

<sup>24</sup> But the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and he spoke with me and said to me, "Go, shut yourself within your house.

<sup>25</sup> And you, O son of man, behold, cords will be placed upon you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people.

<sup>26</sup> And I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and unable to reprove them, for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>27</sup> But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' He who

will hear, let him hear; and he who will refuse to hear, let him refuse, for they are a rebellious house.

**4**<sup>1</sup> "And you, son of man, take a brick and lay it before you, and engrave on it a city, even Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> And put siegeworks against it, and build a siege wall against it, and cast up a mound against it. Set camps also against it, and plant battering rams against it all around.

<sup>3</sup> And you, take an iron griddle, and place it as an iron wall between you and the city; and set your face toward it, and let it be in a state of siege, and press the siege against it. This is a sign for the house of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> "Then lie on your left side, and place the punishment of the house of Israel upon it. For the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their punishment.

<sup>5</sup> For I assign to you a number of days, 390 days, equal to the number of the years of their punishment. So long shall you bear the punishment of the house of Israel.

<sup>6</sup> And when you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side, and bear the punishment of the house of Judah. Forty days I assign you, a day for each year.

<sup>7</sup> And you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem, with your arm bared, and you shall prophesy against the city.

<sup>8</sup> And behold, I will place cords upon you, so that you cannot turn from one side to the other, till you have completed the days of your siege.

<sup>9</sup> "And you, take wheat and barley, beans and lentils, millet and emmer, and put them into a single vessel and make your bread from them. During the

number of days that you lie on your side, 390 days, you shall eat it.

<sup>10</sup> And your food that you eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day; from day to day you shall eat it.

<sup>11</sup> And water you shall drink by measure, the sixth part of a hin; from day to day you shall drink.

<sup>12</sup> And you shall eat it as a barley cake, baking it in their sight on human dung."

<sup>13</sup> And the LORD said, "Thus shall the people of Israel eat their bread unclean, among the nations where I will drive them."

<sup>14</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I have never defiled myself. From my youth up till now I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor has tainted meat come into my mouth."

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to me, "See, I assign to you cow's dung instead of human dung, on which you may prepare your bread."

<sup>16</sup> Moreover, he said to me, "Son of man, behold, I will break the supply of bread in Jerusalem. They shall eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and they shall drink water by measure and in dismay.

<sup>17</sup> I will do this that they may lack bread and water, and look at one another in dismay, and rot away because of their punishment.

**5** <sup>1</sup> "And you, O son of man, take a sharp sword. Use it as a barber's razor and pass it over your head and your beard. Then take balances for weighing and divide the hair.

<sup>2</sup> A third part you shall burn in the fire in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. And a third part you shall take and strike with the

sword all around the city. And a third part you shall scatter to the wind, and I will unsheathe the sword after them.

<sup>3</sup> And you shall take from these a small number and bind them in the skirts of your robe.

<sup>4</sup> And of these again you shall take some and cast them into the midst of the fire and burn them in the fire. From there a fire will come out into all the house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

<sup>6</sup> And she has rebelled against my rules by doing wickedness more than the nations, and against my statutes more than the countries all around her; for they have rejected my rules and have not walked in my statutes.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you are more turbulent than the nations that are all around you, and have not walked in my statutes or obeyed my rules, and have not even acted according to the rules of the nations that are all around you,

<sup>8</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, even I, am against you. And I will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations.

<sup>9</sup> And because of all your abominations I will do with you what I have never yet done, and the like of which I will never do again.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers. And I will execute judgments on you, and any of you who survive I will scatter to all the winds.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely, because you have defiled

my sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will withdraw. My eye will not spare, and I will have no pity.

<sup>12</sup> A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them.

<sup>13</sup> "Thus shall my anger spend itself, and I will vent my fury upon them and satisfy myself. And they shall know that I am the LORD--that I have spoken in my jealousy--when I spend my fury upon them.

<sup>14</sup> Moreover, I will make you a desolation and an object of reproach among the nations all around you and in the sight of all who pass by.

<sup>15</sup> You shall be a reproach and a taunt, a warning and a horror, to the nations all

around you, when I execute judgments on you in anger and fury, and with furious rebukes--I am the LORD, I have spoken--

<sup>16</sup> when I send against you the deadly arrows of famine, arrows for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, and when I bring more and more famine upon you and break your supply of bread.

<sup>17</sup> I will send famine and wild beasts against you, and they will rob you of your children. Pestilence and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the sword upon you. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

**6** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:  
<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,

<sup>3</sup> and say, You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the

Lord GOD to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.

<sup>4</sup> Your altars shall become desolate, and your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain before your idols.

<sup>5</sup> And I will lay the dead bodies of the people of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars.

<sup>6</sup> Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.

<sup>7</sup> And the slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> "Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some

who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries,

<sup>9</sup> then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.

<sup>10</sup> And they shall know that I am the LORD. I have not said in vain that I would do this evil to them."

<sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: "Clap your hands and stamp your foot and say, Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, for they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.

<sup>12</sup> He who is far off shall die of pestilence, and he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who is left and is

preserved shall die of famine. Thus I will spend my fury upon them.

<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every leafy oak, wherever they offered pleasing aroma to all their idols.

<sup>14</sup> And I will stretch out my hand against them and make the land desolate and waste, in all their dwelling places, from the wilderness to Riblah. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

**7** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:  
<sup>2</sup> "And you, O son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.

<sup>3</sup> Now the end is upon you, and I will send my anger upon you; I will judge you

according to your ways, and I will punish you for all your abominations.

<sup>4</sup> And my eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity, but I will punish you for your ways, while your abominations are in your midst. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: Disaster after disaster! Behold, it comes.

<sup>6</sup> An end has come; the end has come; it has awakened against you. Behold, it comes.

<sup>7</sup> Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come; the day is near, a day of tumult, and not of joyful shouting on the mountains.

<sup>8</sup> Now I will soon pour out my wrath upon you, and spend my anger against you, and judge you according to your ways, and I will punish you for all your abominations.

<sup>9</sup> And my eye will not spare, nor will I have pity. I will punish you according to your ways, while your abominations are in your midst. Then you will know that I am the LORD, who strikes.

<sup>10</sup> "Behold, the day! Behold, it comes! Your doom has come; the rod has blossomed; pride has budded.

<sup>11</sup> Violence has grown up into a rod of wickedness. None of them shall remain, nor their abundance, nor their wealth; neither shall there be preeminence among them.

<sup>12</sup> The time has come; the day has arrived. Let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn, for wrath is upon all their multitude.

<sup>13</sup> For the seller shall not return to what he has sold, while they live. For the vision concerns all their multitude; it shall not turn back; and because of his iniquity, none can maintain his life.

<sup>14</sup> "They have blown the trumpet and made everything ready, but none goes to battle, for my wrath is upon all their multitude.

<sup>15</sup> The sword is without; pestilence and famine are within. He who is in the field dies by the sword, and him who is in the city famine and pestilence devour.

<sup>16</sup> And if any survivors escape, they will be on the mountains, like doves of the valleys, all of them moaning, each one over his iniquity.

<sup>17</sup> All hands are feeble, and all knees turn to water.

<sup>18</sup> They put on sackcloth, and horror covers them. Shame is on all faces, and baldness on all their heads.

<sup>19</sup> They cast their silver into the streets, and their gold is like an unclean thing. Their silver and gold are not able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They cannot satisfy their

hunger or fill their stomachs with it. For it was the stumbling block of their iniquity.

<sup>20</sup> His beautiful ornament they used for pride, and they made their abominable images and their detestable things of it. Therefore I make it an unclean thing to them.

<sup>21</sup> And I will give it into the hands of foreigners for prey, and to the wicked of the earth for spoil, and they shall profane it.

<sup>22</sup> I will turn my face from them, and they shall profane my treasured place. Robbers shall enter and profane it.

<sup>23</sup> "Forge a chain! For the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence.

<sup>24</sup> I will bring the worst of the nations to take possession of their houses. I will put an end to the pride of the strong, and their holy places shall be profaned.

<sup>25</sup> When anguish comes, they will seek peace, but there shall be none.

<sup>26</sup> Disaster comes upon disaster; rumor follows rumor. They seek a vision from the prophet, while the law perishes from the priest and counsel from the elders.

<sup>27</sup> The king mourns, the prince is wrapped in despair, and the hands of the people of the land are paralyzed by terror. According to their way I will do to them, and according to their judgments I will judge them, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

**8** <sup>1</sup> In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house, with the elders of Judah sitting before me, the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there.

<sup>2</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a form that had the appearance of a man. Below what appeared to be his waist was fire, and above his waist was something

like the appearance of brightness, like gleaming metal.

<sup>3</sup> He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy.

<sup>4</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley.

<sup>5</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy.

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far

from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations."

<sup>7</sup> And he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, there was a hole in the wall.

<sup>8</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, dig in the wall." So I dug in the wall, and behold, there was an entrance.

<sup>9</sup> And he said to me, "Go in, and see the vile abominations that they are committing here."

<sup>10</sup> So I went in and saw. And there, engraved on the wall all around, was every form of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel.

<sup>11</sup> And before them stood seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had his censer in his hand, and the smoke of the cloud of incense went up.

<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'"

<sup>13</sup> He said also to me, "You will see still greater abominations that they commit."

<sup>14</sup> Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the LORD, and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these."

<sup>16</sup> And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. And behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the

LORD, and their faces toward the east, worshiping the sun toward the east.

<sup>17</sup> Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it too light a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations that they commit here, that they should fill the land with violence and provoke me still further to anger? Behold, they put the branch to their nose.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore I will act in wrath. My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity. And though they cry in my ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."

**9** <sup>1</sup> Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, "Bring near the executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand."

<sup>2</sup> And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was

a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

<sup>3</sup> Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist.

<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it."

<sup>5</sup> And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity.

<sup>6</sup> Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they began

with the elders who were before the house.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to them, "Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out." So they went out and struck in the city.

<sup>8</sup> And while they were striking, and I was left alone, I fell upon my face, and cried, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you destroy all the remnant of Israel in the outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "The guilt of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great. The land is full of blood, and the city full of injustice. For they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see.'

<sup>10</sup> As for me, my eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will bring their deeds upon their heads."

<sup>11</sup> And behold, the man clothed in linen, with the writing case at his waist,

brought back word, saying, "I have done as you commanded me."

**10** <sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne.

<sup>2</sup> And he said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." And he went in before my eyes.

<sup>3</sup> Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court.

<sup>4</sup> And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

<sup>6</sup> And when he commanded the man clothed in linen, "Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim," he went in and stood beside a wheel.

<sup>7</sup> And a cherub stretched out his hand from between the cherubim to the fire that was between the cherubim, and took some of it and put it into the hands of the man clothed in linen, who took it and went out.

<sup>8</sup> The cherubim appeared to have the form of a human hand under their wings.

<sup>9</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were four wheels beside the cherubim, one beside each cherub, and the appearance of the wheels was like sparkling beryl.

<sup>10</sup> And as for their appearance, the four had the same likeness, as if a wheel were within a wheel.

<sup>11</sup> When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went, but in whatever direction the front wheel faced, the others followed without turning as they went.

<sup>12</sup> And their whole body, their rims, and their spokes, their wings, and the wheels were full of eyes all around--the wheels that the four of them had.

<sup>13</sup> As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing "the whirling wheels."

<sup>14</sup> And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was a human face, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

<sup>15</sup> And the cherubim mounted up. These were the living creatures that I saw by the Chebar canal.

<sup>16</sup> And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them. And when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels did not turn from beside them.

<sup>17</sup> When they stood still, these stood still, and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in them.

<sup>18</sup> Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim.

<sup>19</sup> And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

<sup>20</sup> These were the living creatures that I saw underneath the God of Israel by the

Chebar canal; and I knew that they were cherubim.

<sup>21</sup> Each had four faces, and each four wings, and underneath their wings the likeness of human hands.

<sup>22</sup> And as for the likeness of their faces, they were the same faces whose appearance I had seen by the Chebar canal. Each one of them went straight forward.

**11** <sup>1</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the house of the LORD, which faces east. And behold, at the entrance of the gateway there were twenty-five men. And I saw among them Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

<sup>2</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and who give wicked counsel in this city;

<sup>3</sup> who say, 'The time is not near to build houses. This city is the cauldron, and we are the meat.'

<sup>4</sup> Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man."

<sup>5</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind.

<sup>6</sup> You have multiplied your slain in this city and have filled its streets with the slain.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Your slain whom you have laid in the midst of it, they are the meat, and this city is the cauldron, but you shall be brought out of the midst of it.

<sup>8</sup> You have feared the sword, and I will bring the sword upon you, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> And I will bring you out of the midst of it, and give you into the hands of foreigners, and execute judgments upon you.

<sup>10</sup> You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> This city shall not be your cauldron, nor shall you be the meat in the midst of it. I will judge you at the border of Israel,

<sup>12</sup> and you shall know that I am the LORD. For you have not walked in my statutes, nor obeyed my rules, but have acted according to the rules of the nations that are around you."

<sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, while I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell down on my face and cried out with a loud voice and said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you make a full end of the remnant of Israel?"

<sup>14</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>15</sup> "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.'

<sup>16</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.'

<sup>17</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.'

<sup>18</sup> And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations.

<sup>19</sup> And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

<sup>20</sup> that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

<sup>21</sup> But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>22</sup> Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

<sup>23</sup> And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on

the mountain that is on the east side of the city.

<sup>24</sup> And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to the exiles. Then the vision that I had seen went up from me.

<sup>25</sup> And I told the exiles all the things that the LORD had shown me.

**12** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, who have eyes to see, but see not, who have ears to hear, but hear not, for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>3</sup> As for you, son of man, prepare for yourself an exile's baggage, and go into exile by day in their sight. You shall go like an exile from your place to another place in their sight. Perhaps they will understand, though they are a rebellious house.

<sup>4</sup> You shall bring out your baggage by day in their sight, as baggage for exile, and you shall go out yourself at evening in their sight, as those do who must go into exile.

<sup>5</sup> In their sight dig through the wall, and bring your baggage out through it.

<sup>6</sup> In their sight you shall lift the baggage upon your shoulder and carry it out at dusk. You shall cover your face that you may not see the land, for I have made you a sign for the house of Israel."

<sup>7</sup> And I did as I was commanded. I brought out my baggage by day, as baggage for exile, and in the evening I dug through the wall with my own hands. I brought out my baggage at dusk, carrying it on my shoulder in their sight.

<sup>8</sup> In the morning the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>9</sup> "Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said to you, 'What are you doing?'

<sup>10</sup> Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: This oracle concerns the prince in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are in it.'

<sup>11</sup> Say, 'I am a sign for you: as I have done, so shall it be done to them. They shall go into exile, into captivity.'

<sup>12</sup> And the prince who is among them shall lift his baggage upon his shoulder at dusk, and shall go out. They shall dig through the wall to bring him out through it. He shall cover his face, that he may not see the land with his eyes.

<sup>13</sup> And I will spread my net over him, and he shall be taken in my snare. And I will bring him to Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, yet he shall not see it, and he shall die there.

<sup>14</sup> And I will scatter toward every wind all who are around him, his helpers and all his troops, and I will unsheathe the sword after them.

<sup>15</sup> And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I disperse them among the nations and scatter them among the countries.

<sup>16</sup> But I will let a few of them escape from the sword, from famine and pestilence, that they may declare all their abominations among the nations where they go, and may know that I am the LORD."

<sup>17</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>18</sup> "Son of man, eat your bread with quaking, and drink water with trembling and with anxiety.

<sup>19</sup> And say to the people of the land, Thus says the Lord GOD concerning the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the land of

Israel: They shall eat their bread with anxiety, and drink water in dismay. In this way her land will be stripped of all it contains, on account of the violence of all those who dwell in it.

<sup>20</sup> And the inhabited cities shall be laid waste, and the land shall become a desolation; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>21</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>22</sup> "Son of man, what is this proverb that you have about the land of Israel, saying, 'The days grow long, and every vision comes to nothing'?

<sup>23</sup> Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will put an end to this proverb, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel.' But say to them, The days are near, and the fulfillment of every vision.

<sup>24</sup> For there shall be no more any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel.

<sup>25</sup> For I am the LORD; I will speak the word that I will speak, and it will be performed. It will no longer be delayed, but in your days, O rebellious house, I will speak the word and perform it, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>26</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>27</sup> "Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.'

<sup>28</sup> Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: None of my words will be delayed any longer, but the word that I speak will be performed, declares the Lord GOD."

**13** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, who are prophesying, and say to those who prophesy from their own hearts: 'Hear the word of the LORD!'

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

<sup>4</sup> Your prophets have been like jackals among ruins, O Israel.

<sup>5</sup> You have not gone up into the breaches, or built up a wall for the house of Israel, that it might stand in battle in the day of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They have seen false visions and lying divinations. They say, 'Declares the LORD,' when the LORD has not sent them, and yet they expect him to fulfill their word.

<sup>7</sup> Have you not seen a false vision and uttered a lying divination, whenever you

have said, 'Declares the LORD,' although I have not spoken?"

<sup>8</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have uttered falsehood and seen lying visions, therefore behold, I am against you, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and who give lying divinations. They shall not be in the council of my people, nor be enrolled in the register of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

<sup>10</sup> Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, 'Peace,' when there is no peace, and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash,

<sup>11</sup> say to those who smear it with whitewash that it shall fall! There will be a deluge of rain, and you, O great

hailstones, will fall, and a stormy wind break out.

<sup>12</sup> And when the wall falls, will it not be said to you, 'Where is the coating with which you smeared it?'

<sup>13</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: I will make a stormy wind break out in my wrath, and there shall be a deluge of rain in my anger, and great hailstones in wrath to make a full end.

<sup>14</sup> And I will break down the wall that you have smeared with whitewash, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it falls, you shall perish in the midst of it, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Thus will I spend my wrath upon the wall and upon those who have smeared it with whitewash, and I will say to you, The wall is no more, nor those who smeared it,

<sup>16</sup> the prophets of Israel who prophesied concerning Jerusalem and saw visions of peace for her, when there was no peace, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>17</sup> "And you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own minds. Prophecy against them

<sup>18</sup> and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Woe to the women who sew magic bands upon all wrists, and make veils for the heads of persons of every stature, in the hunt for souls! Will you hunt down souls belonging to my people and keep your own souls alive?

<sup>19</sup> You have profaned me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, putting to death souls who should not die and keeping alive souls who should not live, by your lying to my people, who listen to lies.

<sup>20</sup> "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against your magic bands with which you hunt the souls like birds, and I will tear them from your arms, and I will let the souls whom you hunt go free, the souls like birds.

<sup>21</sup> Your veils also I will tear off and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand as prey, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> Because you have disheartened the righteous falsely, although I have not grieved him, and you have encouraged the wicked, that he should not turn from his evil way to save his life,

<sup>23</sup> therefore you shall no more see false visions nor practice divination. I will deliver my people out of your hand. And you shall know that I am the LORD."

**14** <sup>1</sup> Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.

<sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>3</sup> "Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?

<sup>4</sup> Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols,

<sup>5</sup> that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

<sup>7</sup> For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the LORD will answer him myself.

<sup>8</sup> And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of my people, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> And if the prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I, the LORD, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

<sup>10</sup> And they shall bear their punishment--the punishment of the prophet and the punishment of the inquirer shall be alike--

<sup>11</sup> that the house of Israel may no more go astray from me, nor defile themselves anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be my people and I may be their God, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>12</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>13</sup> "Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast,

<sup>14</sup> even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> "If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they ravage it, and it be made desolate, so that no one may pass through because of the beasts,

<sup>16</sup> even if these three men were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters. They alone would be delivered, but the land would be desolate.

<sup>17</sup> "Or if I bring a sword upon that land and say, Let a sword pass through the land, and I cut off from it man and beast,

<sup>18</sup> though these three men were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they alone would be delivered.

<sup>19</sup> "Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out my wrath upon it with blood, to cut off from it man and beast,

<sup>20</sup> even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither son nor daughter.

They would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness.

<sup>21</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD:

How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!

<sup>22</sup> But behold, some survivors will be left in it, sons and daughters who will be brought out; behold, when they come out to you, and you see their ways and their deeds, you will be consoled for the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, for all that I have brought upon it.

<sup>23</sup> They will console you, when you see their ways and their deeds, and you shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, declares the Lord GOD."

**15** <sup>1</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, how does the wood of the vine surpass any wood, the vine branch that is among the trees of the forest?

<sup>3</sup> Is wood taken from it to make anything? Do people take a peg from it to hang any vessel on it?

<sup>4</sup> Behold, it is given to the fire for fuel. When the fire has consumed both ends of it, and the middle of it is charred, is it useful for anything?

<sup>5</sup> Behold, when it was whole, it was used for nothing. How much less, when the fire has consumed it and it is charred, can it ever be used for anything!

<sup>6</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so have I given up the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup> And I will set my face against them. Though they escape from the fire, the fire shall yet consume them, and you will know that I am the LORD, when I set my face against them.

<sup>8</sup> And I will make the land desolate, because they have acted faithlessly, declares the Lord GOD."

**16** <sup>1</sup> Again the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations,

<sup>3</sup> and say, Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

<sup>4</sup> And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.

<sup>5</sup> No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.

<sup>6</sup> "And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'

<sup>7</sup> I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

<sup>8</sup> "When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.

<sup>9</sup> Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil.

<sup>10</sup> I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk.

<sup>11</sup> And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck.

<sup>12</sup> And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

<sup>13</sup> Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.

<sup>14</sup> And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I

had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> "But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his.

<sup>16</sup> You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them played the whore. The like has never been, nor ever shall be.

<sup>17</sup> You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself images of men, and with them played the whore.

<sup>18</sup> And you took your embroidered garments to cover them, and set my oil and my incense before them.

<sup>19</sup> Also my bread that I gave you--I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey--you set before them for a

pleasing aroma; and so it was, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>20</sup> And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter

<sup>21</sup> that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?

<sup>22</sup> And in all your abominations and your whorings you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, wallowing in your blood.

<sup>23</sup> "And after all your wickedness (woe, woe to you! declares the Lord GOD),

<sup>24</sup> you built yourself a vaulted chamber and made yourself a lofty place in every square.

<sup>25</sup> At the head of every street you built your lofty place and made your beauty

an abomination, offering yourself to any passerby and multiplying your whoring.

<sup>26</sup> You also played the whore with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, multiplying your whoring, to provoke me to anger.

<sup>27</sup> Behold, therefore, I stretched out my hand against you and diminished your allotted portion and delivered you to the greed of your enemies, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior.

<sup>28</sup> You played the whore also with the Assyrians, because you were not satisfied; yes, you played the whore with them, and still you were not satisfied.

<sup>29</sup> You multiplied your whoring also with the trading land of Chaldea, and even with this you were not satisfied.

<sup>30</sup> "How lovesick is your heart, declares the Lord GOD, because you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen prostitute,

<sup>31</sup> building your vaulted chamber at the head of every street, and making your lofty place in every square. Yet you were not like a prostitute, because you scorned payment.

<sup>32</sup> Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband!

<sup>33</sup> Men give gifts to all prostitutes, but you gave your gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from every side with your whorings.

<sup>34</sup> So you were different from other women in your whorings. No one solicited you to play the whore, and you gave payment, while no payment was given to you; therefore you were different.

<sup>35</sup> "Therefore, O prostitute, hear the word of the LORD:

<sup>36</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your whorings

with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them,

<sup>37</sup> therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

<sup>38</sup> And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy.

<sup>39</sup> And I will give you into their hands, and they shall throw down your vaulted chamber and break down your lofty places. They shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare.

<sup>40</sup> They shall bring up a crowd against you, and they shall stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords.

<sup>41</sup> And they shall burn your houses and execute judgments upon you in the sight of many women. I will make you stop playing the whore, and you shall also give payment no more.

<sup>42</sup> So will I satisfy my wrath on you, and my jealousy shall depart from you. I will be calm and will no more be angry.

<sup>43</sup> Because you have not remembered the days of your youth, but have enraged me with all these things, therefore, behold, I have returned your deeds upon your head, declares the Lord GOD. Have you not committed lewdness in addition to all your abominations?

<sup>44</sup> "Behold, everyone who uses proverbs will use this proverb about you: 'Like mother, like daughter.'

<sup>45</sup> You are the daughter of your mother, who loathed her husband and her children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.

<sup>46</sup> And your elder sister is Samaria, who lived with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you, is Sodom with her daughters.

<sup>47</sup> Not only did you walk in their ways and do according to their abominations; within a very little time you were more corrupt than they in all your ways.

<sup>48</sup> As I live, declares the Lord GOD, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done.

<sup>49</sup> Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had

pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.

<sup>50</sup> They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

<sup>51</sup> Samaria has not committed half your sins. You have committed more abominations than they, and have made your sisters appear righteous by all the abominations that you have committed.

<sup>52</sup> Bear your disgrace, you also, for you have intervened on behalf of your sisters. Because of your sins in which you acted more abominably than they, they are more in the right than you. So be ashamed, you also, and bear your disgrace, for you have made your sisters appear righteous.

<sup>53</sup> "I will restore their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her

daughters, and I will restore your own fortunes in their midst,

<sup>54</sup> that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all that you have done, becoming a consolation to them.

<sup>55</sup> As for your sisters, Sodom and her daughters shall return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former state, and you and your daughters shall return to your former state.

<sup>56</sup> Was not your sister Sodom a byword in your mouth in the day of your pride,

<sup>57</sup> before your wickedness was uncovered? Now you have become an object of reproach for the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and for the daughters of the Philistines, those all around who despise you.

<sup>58</sup> You bear the penalty of your lewdness and your abominations, declares the LORD.

<sup>59</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant,

<sup>60</sup> yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant.

<sup>61</sup> Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of the covenant with you.

<sup>62</sup> I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD,

<sup>63</sup> that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord GOD."

**17** <sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup>"Son of man, propound a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel;

<sup>3</sup>say, Thus says the Lord GOD: A great eagle with great wings and long pinions, rich in plumage of many colors, came to Lebanon and took the top of the cedar.

<sup>4</sup>He broke off the topmost of its young twigs and carried it to a land of trade and set it in a city of merchants.

<sup>5</sup>Then he took of the seed of the land and planted it in fertile soil. He placed it beside abundant waters. He set it like a willow twig,

<sup>6</sup>and it sprouted and became a low spreading vine, and its branches turned toward him, and its roots remained where it stood. So it became a vine and produced branches and put out boughs.

<sup>7</sup>"And there was another great eagle with great wings and much plumage,

and behold, this vine bent its roots toward him and shot forth its branches toward him from the bed where it was planted, that he might water it.

<sup>8</sup> It had been planted on good soil by abundant waters, that it might produce branches and bear fruit and become a noble vine.

<sup>9</sup> "Say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots and cut off its fruit, so that it withers, so that all its fresh sprouting leaves wither? It will not take a strong arm or many people to pull it from its roots.

<sup>10</sup> Behold, it is planted; will it thrive? Will it not utterly wither when the east wind strikes it--wither away on the bed where it sprouted?"

<sup>11</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>12</sup> "Say now to the rebellious house, Do you not know what these things mean?

Tell them, behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, and took her king and her princes and brought them to him to Babylon.

<sup>13</sup> And he took one of the royal offspring and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath (the chief men of the land he had taken away),

<sup>14</sup> that the kingdom might be humble and not lift itself up, and keep his covenant that it might stand.

<sup>15</sup> But he rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and a large army. Will he thrive? Can one escape who does such things? Can he break the covenant and yet escape?

<sup>16</sup> "As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant with him he broke, in Babylon he shall die.

<sup>17</sup> Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company will not help him in war, when mounds are cast up and siege walls built to cut off many lives.

<sup>18</sup> He despised the oath in breaking the covenant, and behold, he gave his hand and did all these things; he shall not escape.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: As I live, surely it is my oath that he despised, and my covenant that he broke. I will return it upon his head.

<sup>20</sup> I will spread my net over him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon and enter into judgment with him there for the treachery he has committed against me.

<sup>21</sup> And all the pick of his troops shall fall by the sword, and the survivors shall be scattered to every wind, and you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken."

<sup>22</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup> On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest.

<sup>24</sup> And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

**18** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel,

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?

<sup>3</sup> As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

<sup>5</sup> "If a man is righteous and does what is just and right--

<sup>6</sup> if he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor's wife or approach a woman in her time of menstrual impurity,

<sup>7</sup> does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, commits no robbery, gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment,

<sup>8</sup> does not lend at interest or take any profit, withholds his hand from injustice,

executes true justice between man and man,

<sup>9</sup> walks in my statutes, and keeps my rules by acting faithfully--he is righteous; he shall surely live, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>10</sup> "If he fathers a son who is violent, a shedder of blood, who does any of these things

<sup>11</sup> (though he himself did none of these things), who even eats upon the mountains, defiles his neighbor's wife,

<sup>12</sup> oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, does not restore the pledge, lifts up his eyes to the idols, commits abomination,

<sup>13</sup> lends at interest, and takes profit; shall he then live? He shall not live. He has done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon himself.

<sup>14</sup> "Now suppose this man fathers a son who sees all the sins that his father has done; he sees, and does not do likewise:

<sup>15</sup> he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor's wife,

<sup>16</sup> does not oppress anyone, exacts no pledge, commits no robbery, but gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment,

<sup>17</sup> withholds his hand from iniquity, takes no interest or profit, obeys my rules, and walks in my statutes; he shall not die for his father's iniquity; he shall surely live.

<sup>18</sup> As for his father, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother, and did what is not good among his people, behold, he shall die for his iniquity.

<sup>19</sup> "Yet you say, 'Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?'

When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live.

<sup>20</sup> The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

<sup>21</sup> "But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

<sup>22</sup> None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live.

<sup>23</sup> Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and

not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

<sup>24</sup> But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

<sup>25</sup> "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>26</sup> When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die.

<sup>27</sup> Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has

committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life.

<sup>28</sup> Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

<sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>30</sup> "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin.

<sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

**19** <sup>1</sup> And you, take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel,  
<sup>2</sup> and say: What was your mother? A lioness! Among lions she crouched; in the midst of young lions she reared her cubs.

<sup>3</sup> And she brought up one of her cubs; he became a young lion, and he learned to catch prey; he devoured men.

<sup>4</sup> The nations heard about him; he was caught in their pit, and they brought him with hooks to the land of Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> When she saw that she waited in vain, that her hope was lost, she took another of her cubs and made him a young lion.

<sup>6</sup> He prowled among the lions; he became a young lion, and he learned to catch prey; he devoured men,

<sup>7</sup> and seized their widows. He laid waste their cities, and the land was appalled and all who were in it at the sound of his roaring.

<sup>8</sup> Then the nations set against him from provinces on every side; they spread their net over him; he was taken in their pit.

<sup>9</sup> With hooks they put him in a cage and brought him to the king of Babylon; they brought him into custody, that his voice should no more be heard on the mountains of Israel.

<sup>10</sup> Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard planted by the water, fruitful and full of branches by reason of abundant water.

<sup>11</sup> Its strong stems became rulers' scepters; it towered aloft among the thick boughs; it was seen in its height with the mass of its branches.

<sup>12</sup> But the vine was plucked up in fury, cast down to the ground; the east wind dried up its fruit; they were stripped off and withered. As for its strong stem, fire consumed it.

<sup>13</sup> Now it is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty land.

<sup>14</sup> And fire has gone out from the stem of its shoots, has consumed its fruit, so that there remains in it no strong stem, no scepter for ruling. This is a lamentation and has become a lamentation.

**20** <sup>1</sup> In the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

<sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>3</sup> "Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, Thus says the

Lord GOD, Is it to inquire of me that you come? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will not be inquired of by you.

<sup>4</sup> Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Let them know the abominations of their fathers,

<sup>5</sup> and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day when I chose Israel, I swore to the offspring of the house of Jacob, making myself known to them in the land of Egypt; I swore to them, saying, I am the LORD your God.

<sup>6</sup> On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands.

<sup>7</sup> And I said to them, Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.

<sup>8</sup> But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup> So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.

<sup>11</sup> I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live.

<sup>12</sup> Moreover, I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that

they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

<sup>13</sup> But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them.

<sup>14</sup> But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.

<sup>15</sup> Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land that I had given them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands,

<sup>16</sup> because they rejected my rules and did not walk in my statutes, and

profaned my Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.

<sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, my eye spared them, and I did not destroy them or make a full end of them in the wilderness.

<sup>18</sup> "And I said to their children in the wilderness, Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor keep their rules, nor defile yourselves with their idols.

<sup>19</sup> I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and be careful to obey my rules,

<sup>20</sup> and keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

<sup>21</sup> But the children rebelled against me. They did not walk in my statutes and were not careful to obey my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; they profaned my Sabbaths. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon

them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness.

<sup>22</sup> But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.

<sup>23</sup> Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them through the countries,

<sup>24</sup> because they had not obeyed my rules, but had rejected my statutes and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were set on their fathers' idols.

<sup>25</sup> Moreover, I gave them statutes that were not good and rules by which they could not have life,

<sup>26</sup> and I defiled them through their very gifts in their offering up all their firstborn, that I might devastate them. I did it that they might know that I am the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> "Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: In this also your fathers blasphemed me, by dealing treacherously with me.

<sup>28</sup> For when I had brought them into the land that I swore to give them, then wherever they saw any high hill or any leafy tree, there they offered their sacrifices and there they presented the provocation of their offering; there they sent up their pleasing aromas, and there they poured out their drink offerings.

<sup>29</sup> (I said to them, What is the high place to which you go? So its name is called Bamah to this day.)

<sup>30</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and go whoring after their detestable things?

<sup>31</sup> When you present your gifts and offer up your children in fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will not be inquired of by you.

<sup>32</sup> "What is in your mind shall never happen--the thought, 'Let us be like the nations, like the tribes of the countries, and worship wood and stone.'

<sup>33</sup> "As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out I will be king over you.

<sup>34</sup> I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out.

<sup>35</sup> And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I

will enter into judgment with you face to face.

<sup>36</sup> As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>37</sup> I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

<sup>38</sup> I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>39</sup> "As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord GOD: Go serve every one of you his idols, now and hereafter, if you will not listen to me; but my holy name you shall no more profane with your gifts and your idols.

<sup>40</sup> "For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land. There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings.

<sup>41</sup> As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.

<sup>42</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers.

<sup>43</sup> And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall

loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed.

<sup>44</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>45</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>46</sup> "Son of man, set your face toward the southland; preach against the south, and prophesy against the forest land in the Negeb.

<sup>47</sup> Say to the forest of the Negeb, Hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green tree in you and every dry tree. The blazing flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from south to north shall be scorched by it.

<sup>48</sup> All flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it; it shall not be quenched."

<sup>49</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! They are saying of me, 'Is he not a maker of parables?'"

**21** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem and preach against the sanctuaries. Prophecy against the land of Israel

<sup>3</sup> and say to the land of Israel, Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am against you and will draw my sword from its sheath and will cut off from you both righteous and wicked.

<sup>4</sup> Because I will cut off from you both righteous and wicked, therefore my sword shall be drawn from its sheath against all flesh from south to north.

<sup>5</sup> And all flesh shall know that I am the LORD. I have drawn my sword from its sheath; it shall not be sheathed again.

<sup>6</sup> "As for you, son of man, groan; with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan before their eyes.

<sup>7</sup> And when they say to you, 'Why do you groan?' you shall say, 'Because of the news that it is coming. Every heart will melt, and all hands will be feeble; every spirit will faint, and all knees will be weak as water. Behold, it is coming, and it will be fulfilled,'" declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>8</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>9</sup> "Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus says the Lord; Say: "A sword, a sword is sharpened and also polished,

<sup>10</sup> sharpened for slaughter, polished to flash like lightning! (Or shall we rejoice?

You have despised the rod, my son, with everything of wood.)

<sup>11</sup> So the sword is given to be polished, that it may be grasped in the hand. It is sharpened and polished to be given into the hand of the slayer.

<sup>12</sup> Cry out and wail, son of man, for it is against my people. It is against all the princes of Israel. They are delivered over to the sword with my people. Strike therefore upon your thigh.

<sup>13</sup> For it will not be a testing--what could it do if you despise the rod?" declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>14</sup> "As for you, son of man, prophesy. Clap your hands and let the sword come down twice, yes, three times, the sword for those to be slain. It is the sword for the great slaughter, which surrounds them,

<sup>15</sup> that their hearts may melt, and many stumble. At all their gates I have given

the glittering sword. Ah, it is made like lightning; it is taken up for slaughter.

<sup>16</sup> Cut sharply to the right; set yourself to the left, wherever your face is directed.

<sup>17</sup> I also will clap my hands, and I will satisfy my fury; I the LORD have spoken."

<sup>18</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again:

<sup>19</sup> "As for you, son of man, mark two ways for the sword of the king of Babylon to come. Both of them shall come from the same land. And make a signpost; make it at the head of the way to a city.

<sup>20</sup> Mark a way for the sword to come to Rabbah of the Ammonites and to Judah, into Jerusalem the fortified.

<sup>21</sup> For the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination. He shakes the arrows; he consults the teraphim; he looks at the liver.

<sup>22</sup> Into his right hand comes the divination for Jerusalem, to set battering rams, to open the mouth with murder, to lift up the voice with shouting, to set battering rams against the gates, to cast up mounds, to build siege towers.

<sup>23</sup> But to them it will seem like a false divination. They have sworn solemn oaths, but he brings their guilt to remembrance, that they may be taken.

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have made your guilt to be remembered, in that your transgressions are uncovered, so that in all your deeds your sins appear--because you have come to remembrance, you shall be taken in hand.

<sup>25</sup> And you, O profane wicked one, prince of Israel, whose day has come, the time of your final punishment,

<sup>26</sup> thus says the Lord GOD: Remove the turban and take off the crown. Things

shall not remain as they are. Exalt that which is low, and bring low that which is exalted.

<sup>27</sup> A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it. This also shall not be, until he comes, the one to whom judgment belongs, and I will give it to him.

<sup>28</sup> "And you, son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD concerning the Ammonites and concerning their reproach; say, A sword, a sword is drawn for the slaughter. It is polished to consume and to flash like lightning--

<sup>29</sup> while they see for you false visions, while they divine lies for you--to place you on the necks of the profane wicked, whose day has come, the time of their final punishment.

<sup>30</sup> Return it to its sheath. In the place where you were created, in the land of your origin, I will judge you.

<sup>31</sup> And I will pour out my indignation upon you; I will blow upon you with the fire of my wrath, and I will deliver you into the hands of brutish men, skillful to destroy.

<sup>32</sup> You shall be fuel for the fire. Your blood shall be in the midst of the land. You shall be no more remembered, for I the LORD have spoken."

**22** <sup>1</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "And you, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Then declare to her all her abominations.

<sup>3</sup> You shall say, Thus says the Lord GOD: A city that sheds blood in her midst, so that her time may come, and that makes idols to defile herself!

<sup>4</sup> You have become guilty by the blood that you have shed, and defiled by the idols that you have made, and you have brought your days near, the

appointed time of your years has come. Therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mockery to all the countries.

<sup>5</sup> Those who are near and those who are far from you will mock you; your name is defiled; you are full of tumult.

<sup>6</sup> "Behold, the princes of Israel in you, every one according to his power, have been bent on shedding blood.

<sup>7</sup> Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the sojourner suffers extortion in your midst; the fatherless and the widow are wronged in you.

<sup>8</sup> You have despised my holy things and profaned my Sabbaths.

<sup>9</sup> There are men in you who slander to shed blood, and people in you who eat on the mountains; they commit lewdness in your midst.

<sup>10</sup> In you men uncover their fathers' nakedness; in you they violate women

who are unclean in their menstrual impurity.

<sup>11</sup> One commits abomination with his neighbor's wife; another lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law; another in you violates his sister, his father's daughter.

<sup>12</sup> In you they take bribes to shed blood; you take interest and profit and make gain of your neighbors by extortion; but me you have forgotten, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>13</sup> "Behold, I strike my hand at the dishonest gain that you have made, and at the blood that has been in your midst.

<sup>14</sup> Can your courage endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> I will scatter you among the nations and disperse you through the countries, and I will consume your uncleanness out of you.

<sup>16</sup> And you shall be profaned by your own doing in the sight of the nations, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>17</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>18</sup> "Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me; all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead in the furnace; they are dross of silver.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have all become dross, therefore, behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

<sup>20</sup> As one gathers silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into a furnace, to blow the fire on it in order to melt it, so I will gather you in my anger and in my wrath, and I will put you in and melt you.

<sup>21</sup> I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of my wrath, and you shall be melted in the midst of it.

<sup>22</sup> As silver is melted in a furnace, so you shall be melted in the midst of it, and you shall know that I am the LORD; I have poured out my wrath upon you."

<sup>23</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>24</sup> "Son of man, say to her, You are a land that is not cleansed or rained upon in the day of indignation.

<sup>25</sup> The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst.

<sup>26</sup> Her priests have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have

disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

<sup>27</sup> Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain.

<sup>28</sup> And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD has not spoken.

<sup>29</sup> The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice.

<sup>30</sup> And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

<sup>31</sup> Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them. I have consumed

them with the fire of my wrath. I have returned their way upon their heads, declares the Lord GOD."

**23** <sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup>"Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother.

<sup>3</sup>They played the whore in Egypt; they played the whore in their youth; there their breasts were pressed and their virgin bosoms handled.

<sup>4</sup>Oholah was the name of the elder and Oholibah the name of her sister. They became mine, and they bore sons and daughters. As for their names, Oholah is Samaria, and Oholibah is Jerusalem.

<sup>5</sup>"Oholah played the whore while she was mine, and she lusted after her lovers the Assyrians, warriors

<sup>6</sup>clothed in purple, governors and commanders, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding on horses.

<sup>7</sup> She bestowed her whoring upon them, the choicest men of Assyria all of them, and she defiled herself with all the idols of everyone after whom she lusted.

<sup>8</sup> She did not give up her whoring that she had begun in Egypt; for in her youth men had lain with her and handled her virgin bosom and poured out their whoring lust upon her.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore I delivered her into the hands of her lovers, into the hands of the Assyrians, after whom she lusted.

<sup>10</sup> These uncovered her nakedness; they seized her sons and her daughters; and as for her, they killed her with the sword; and she became a byword among women, when judgment had been executed on her.

<sup>11</sup> "Her sister Oholibah saw this, and she became more corrupt than her sister in her lust and in her whoring, which was worse than that of her sister.

<sup>12</sup> She lusted after the Assyrians, governors and commanders, warriors clothed in full armor, horsemen riding on horses, all of them desirable young men.

<sup>13</sup> And I saw that she was defiled; they both took the same way.

<sup>14</sup> But she carried her whoring further. She saw men portrayed on the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed in vermilion,

<sup>15</sup> wearing belts on their waists, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them having the appearance of officers, a likeness of Babylonians whose native land was Chaldea.

<sup>16</sup> When she saw them, she lusted after them and sent messengers to them in Chaldea.

<sup>17</sup> And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoring lust. And after she

was defiled by them, she turned from them in disgust.

<sup>18</sup> When she carried on her whoring so openly and flaunted her nakedness, I turned in disgust from her, as I had turned in disgust from her sister.

<sup>19</sup> Yet she increased her whoring, remembering the days of her youth, when she played the whore in the land of Egypt

<sup>20</sup> and lusted after her paramours there, whose members were like those of donkeys, and whose issue was like that of horses.

<sup>21</sup> Thus you longed for the lewdness of your youth, when the Egyptians handled your bosom and pressed your young breasts."

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, O Oholibah, thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will stir up against you your lovers from whom you turned

in disgust, and I will bring them against you from every side:

<sup>23</sup> the Babylonians and all the Chaldeans, Pekod and Shoa and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them, desirable young men, governors and commanders all of them, officers and men of renown, all of them riding on horses.

<sup>24</sup> And they shall come against you from the north with chariots and wagons and a host of peoples. They shall set themselves against you on every side with buckler, shield, and helmet; and I will commit the judgment to them, and they shall judge you according to their judgments.

<sup>25</sup> And I will direct my jealousy against you, that they may deal with you in fury. They shall cut off your nose and your ears, and your survivors shall fall by the sword. They shall seize your sons and

your daughters, and your survivors shall be devoured by fire.

<sup>26</sup> They shall also strip you of your clothes and take away your beautiful jewels.

<sup>27</sup> Thus I will put an end to your lewdness and your whoring begun in the land of Egypt, so that you shall not lift up your eyes to them or remember Egypt anymore.

<sup>28</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will deliver you into the hands of those whom you hate, into the hands of those from whom you turned in disgust,

<sup>29</sup> and they shall deal with you in hatred and take away all the fruit of your labor and leave you naked and bare, and the nakedness of your whoring shall be uncovered. Your lewdness and your whoring

<sup>30</sup> have brought this upon you, because you played the whore with the nations and defiled yourself with their idols.

<sup>31</sup> You have gone the way of your sister; therefore I will give her cup into your hand.

<sup>32</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: "You shall drink your sister's cup that is deep and large; you shall be laughed at and held in derision, for it contains much;

<sup>33</sup> you will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow. A cup of horror and desolation, the cup of your sister Samaria;

<sup>34</sup> you shall drink it and drain it out, and gnaw its shards, and tear your breasts; for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>35</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have forgotten me and cast me behind your back, you yourself must

bear the consequences of your lewdness and whoring."

<sup>36</sup> The LORD said to me: "Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Declare to them their abominations.

<sup>37</sup> For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. With their idols they have committed adultery, and they have even offered up to them for food the children whom they had borne to me.

<sup>38</sup> Moreover, this they have done to me: they have defiled my sanctuary on the same day and profaned my Sabbaths.

<sup>39</sup> For when they had slaughtered their children in sacrifice to their idols, on the same day they came into my sanctuary to profane it. And behold, this is what they did in my house.

<sup>40</sup> They even sent for men to come from afar, to whom a messenger was sent; and behold, they came. For them you

bathed yourself, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with ornaments.

<sup>41</sup> You sat on a stately couch, with a table spread before it on which you had placed my incense and my oil.

<sup>42</sup> The sound of a carefree multitude was with her; and with men of the common sort drunkards were brought from the wilderness; and they put bracelets on the hands of the women, and beautiful crowns on their heads.

<sup>43</sup> "Then I said of her who was worn out by adultery, Now they will continue to use her for a whore, even her!

<sup>44</sup> For they have gone in to her, as men go in to a prostitute. Thus they went in to Oholah and to Oholibah, lewd women!

<sup>45</sup> But righteous men shall pass judgment on them with the sentence of adulteresses, and with the sentence of women who shed blood, because they

are adulteresses, and blood is on their hands."

<sup>46</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD: "Bring up a vast host against them, and make them an object of terror and a plunder.

<sup>47</sup> And the host shall stone them and cut them down with their swords. They shall kill their sons and their daughters, and burn up their houses.

<sup>48</sup> Thus will I put an end to lewdness in the land, that all women may take warning and not commit lewdness as you have done.

<sup>49</sup> And they shall return your lewdness upon you, and you shall bear the penalty for your sinful idolatry, and you shall know that I am the Lord GOD."

**24** <sup>1</sup> In the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, write down the name of this day, this very day. The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day.

<sup>3</sup> And utter a parable to the rebellious house and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Set on the pot, set it on; pour in water also;

<sup>4</sup> put in it the pieces of meat, all the good pieces, the thigh and the shoulder; fill it with choice bones.

<sup>5</sup> Take the choicest one of the flock; pile the logs under it; boil it well; seethe also its bones in it.

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose corrosion is in it, and whose corrosion has not gone out of it! Take out of it piece after piece, without making any choice.

<sup>7</sup> For the blood she has shed is in her midst; she put it on the bare rock; she

did not pour it out on the ground to cover it with dust.

<sup>8</sup> To rouse my wrath, to take vengeance, I have set on the bare rock the blood she has shed, that it may not be covered.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Woe to the bloody city! I also will make the pile great.

<sup>10</sup> Heap on the logs, kindle the fire, boil the meat well, mix in the spices, and let the bones be burned up.

<sup>11</sup> Then set it empty upon the coals, that it may become hot, and its copper may burn, that its uncleanness may be melted in it, its corrosion consumed.

<sup>12</sup> She has wearied herself with toil; its abundant corrosion does not go out of it. Into the fire with its corrosion!

<sup>13</sup> On account of your unclean lewdness, because I would have cleansed you and you were not cleansed from your uncleanness, you shall not be cleansed

anymore till I have satisfied my fury upon you.

<sup>14</sup> I am the LORD. I have spoken; it shall come to pass; I will do it. I will not go back; I will not spare; I will not relent; according to your ways and your deeds you will be judged, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>15</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>16</sup> "Son of man, behold, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you at a stroke; yet you shall not mourn or weep, nor shall your tears run down.

<sup>17</sup> Sigh, but not aloud; make no mourning for the dead. Bind on your turban, and put your shoes on your feet; do not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men."

<sup>18</sup> So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died. And on the next morning I did as I was commanded.

<sup>19</sup> And the people said to me, "Will you not tell us what these things mean for us, that you are acting thus?"

<sup>20</sup> Then I said to them, "The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>21</sup> 'Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and the yearning of your soul, and your sons and your daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword.

<sup>22</sup> And you shall do as I have done; you shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.

<sup>23</sup> Your turbans shall be on your heads and your shoes on your feet; you shall not mourn or weep, but you shall rot away in your iniquities and groan to one another.

<sup>24</sup> Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign; according to all that he has done you

shall do. When this comes, then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.'

<sup>25</sup> "As for you, son of man, surely on the day when I take from them their stronghold, their joy and glory, the delight of their eyes and their soul's desire, and also their sons and daughters,

<sup>26</sup> on that day a fugitive will come to you to report to you the news.

<sup>27</sup> On that day your mouth will be opened to the fugitive, and you shall speak and be no longer mute. So you will be a sign to them, and they will know that I am the LORD."

**25** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face toward the Ammonites and prophesy against them.

<sup>3</sup> Say to the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD: Thus says the Lord GOD, Because you said, 'Aha!' over my

sanctuary when it was profaned, and over the land of Israel when it was made desolate, and over the house of Judah when they went into exile,

<sup>4</sup> therefore behold, I am handing you over to the people of the East for a possession, and they shall set their encampments among you and make their dwellings in your midst. They shall eat your fruit, and they shall drink your milk.

<sup>5</sup> I will make Rabbah a pasture for camels and Ammon a fold for flocks. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet and rejoiced with all the malice within your soul against the land of Israel,

<sup>7</sup> therefore, behold, I have stretched out my hand against you, and will hand you over as plunder to the nations. And I

will cut you off from the peoples and will make you perish out of the countries; I will destroy you. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: Because Moab and Seir said, 'Behold, the house of Judah is like all the other nations,'

<sup>9</sup> therefore I will lay open the flank of Moab from the cities, from its cities on its frontier, the glory of the country, Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim.

<sup>10</sup> I will give it along with the Ammonites to the people of the East as a possession, that the Ammonites may be remembered no more among the nations,

<sup>11</sup> and I will execute judgments upon Moab. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: Because Edom acted revengefully against the

house of Judah and has grievously offended in taking vengeance on them,

<sup>13</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD, I will stretch out my hand against Edom and cut off from it man and beast. And I will make it desolate; from Teman even to Dedan they shall fall by the sword.

<sup>14</sup> And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel, and they shall do in Edom according to my anger and according to my wrath, and they shall know my vengeance, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: Because the Philistines acted revengefully and took vengeance with malice of soul to destroy in never-ending enmity,

<sup>16</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will stretch out my hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the rest of the seacoast.

<sup>17</sup> I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I lay my vengeance upon them."

**26** <sup>1</sup> In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, because Tyre said concerning Jerusalem, 'Aha, the gate of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I shall be replenished, now that she is laid waste,'

<sup>3</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves.

<sup>4</sup> They shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers, and I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock.

<sup>5</sup> She shall be in the midst of the sea a place for the spreading of nets, for I have

spoken, declares the Lord GOD. And she shall become plunder for the nations,  
<sup>6</sup> and her daughters on the mainland shall be killed by the sword. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots, and with horsemen and a host of many soldiers.

<sup>8</sup> He will kill with the sword your daughters on the mainland. He will set up a siege wall against you and throw up a mound against you, and raise a roof of shields against you.

<sup>9</sup> He will direct the shock of his battering rams against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers.

<sup>10</sup> His horses will be so many that their dust will cover you. Your walls will shake at the noise of the horsemen and wagons and chariots, when he enters

your gates as men enter a city that has been breached.

<sup>11</sup> With the hoofs of his horses he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your mighty pillars will fall to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> They will plunder your riches and loot your merchandise. They will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses. Your stones and timber and soil they will cast into the midst of the waters.

<sup>13</sup> And I will stop the music of your songs, and the sound of your lyres shall be heard no more.

<sup>14</sup> I will make you a bare rock. You shall be a place for the spreading of nets. You shall never be rebuilt, for I am the LORD; I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD to Tyre: Will not the coastlands shake at the sound

of your fall, when the wounded groan, when slaughter is made in your midst?

<sup>16</sup> Then all the princes of the sea will step down from their thrones and remove their robes and strip off their embroidered garments. They will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground and tremble every moment and be appalled at you.

<sup>17</sup> And they will raise a lamentation over you and say to you, "How you have perished, you who were inhabited from the seas, O city renowned, who was mighty on the sea; she and her inhabitants imposed their terror on all her inhabitants!

<sup>18</sup> Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall, and the coastlands that are on the sea are dismayed at your passing.'

<sup>19</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: When I make you a city laid waste, like the cities

that are not inhabited, when I bring up the deep over you, and the great waters cover you,

<sup>20</sup> then I will make you go down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of old, and I will make you to dwell in the world below, among ruins from of old, with those who go down to the pit, so that you will not be inhabited; but I will set beauty in the land of the living.

<sup>21</sup> I will bring you to a dreadful end, and you shall be no more. Though you be sought for, you will never be found again, declares the Lord GOD."

**27** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Now you, son of man, raise a lamentation over Tyre,

<sup>3</sup> and say to Tyre, who dwells at the entrances to the sea, merchant of the peoples to many coastlands, thus says

the Lord GOD: "O Tyre, you have said, 'I am perfect in beauty.'

<sup>4</sup> Your borders are in the heart of the seas; your builders made perfect your beauty.

<sup>5</sup> They made all your planks of fir trees from Senir; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for you.

<sup>6</sup> Of oaks of Bashan they made your oars; they made your deck of pines from the coasts of Cyprus, inlaid with ivory.

<sup>7</sup> Of fine embroidered linen from Egypt was your sail, serving as your banner; blue and purple from the coasts of Elishah was your awning.

<sup>8</sup> The inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers; your skilled men, O Tyre, were in you; they were your pilots.

<sup>9</sup> The elders of Gebal and her skilled men were in you, caulking your seams; all the ships of the sea with their

mariners were in you to barter for your wares.

<sup>10</sup> "Persia and Lud and Put were in your army as your men of war. They hung the shield and helmet in you; they gave you splendor.

<sup>11</sup> Men of Arvad and Helech were on your walls all around, and men of Gamad were in your towers. They hung their shields on your walls all around; they made perfect your beauty.

<sup>12</sup> "Tarshish did business with you because of your great wealth of every kind; silver, iron, tin, and lead they exchanged for your wares.

<sup>13</sup> Javan, Tubal, and Meshech traded with you; they exchanged human beings and vessels of bronze for your merchandise.

<sup>14</sup> From Beth-togarmah they exchanged horses, war horses, and mules for your wares.

<sup>15</sup> The men of Dedan traded with you. Many coastlands were your own special markets; they brought you in payment ivory tusks and ebony.

<sup>16</sup> Syria did business with you because of your abundant goods; they exchanged for your wares emeralds, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and ruby.

<sup>17</sup> Judah and the land of Israel traded with you; they exchanged for your merchandise wheat of Minnith, meal, honey, oil, and balm.

<sup>18</sup> Damascus did business with you for your abundant goods, because of your great wealth of every kind; wine of Helbon and wool of Sahar

<sup>19</sup> and casks of wine from Uzal they exchanged for your wares; wrought iron, cassia, and calamus were bartered for your merchandise.

<sup>20</sup> Dedan traded with you in saddlecloths for riding.

<sup>21</sup> Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your favored dealers in lambs, rams, and goats; in these they did business with you.

<sup>22</sup> The traders of Sheba and Raamah traded with you; they exchanged for your wares the best of all kinds of spices and all precious stones and gold.

<sup>23</sup> Haran, Canneh, Eden, traders of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad traded with you.

<sup>24</sup> In your market these traded with you in choice garments, in clothes of blue and embroidered work, and in carpets of colored material, bound with cords and made secure.

<sup>25</sup> The ships of Tarshish traveled for you with your merchandise. So you were filled and heavily laden in the heart of the seas.

<sup>26</sup> "Your rowers have brought you out into the high seas. The east wind has wrecked you in the heart of the seas.

<sup>27</sup> Your riches, your wares, your merchandise, your mariners and your pilots, your caulkers, your dealers in merchandise, and all your men of war who are in you, with all your crew that is in your midst, sink into the heart of the seas on the day of your fall.

<sup>28</sup> At the sound of the cry of your pilots the countryside shakes,

<sup>29</sup> and down from their ships come all who handle the oar. The mariners and all the pilots of the sea stand on the land

<sup>30</sup> and shout aloud over you and cry out bitterly. They cast dust on their heads and wallow in ashes;

<sup>31</sup> they make themselves bald for you and put sackcloth on their waist, and they weep over you in bitterness of soul, with bitter mourning.

<sup>32</sup> In their wailing they raise a lamentation for you and lament over you: 'Who is like Tyre, like one destroyed in the midst of the sea?

<sup>33</sup> When your wares came from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with your abundant wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth.

<sup>34</sup> Now you are wrecked by the seas, in the depths of the waters; your merchandise and all your crew in your midst have sunk with you.

<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the coastlands are appalled at you, and the hair of their kings bristles with horror; their faces are convulsed.

<sup>36</sup> The merchants among the peoples hiss at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever.'"

**28** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,' yet you are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god--

<sup>3</sup> you are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you;

<sup>4</sup> by your wisdom and your understanding you have made wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries;

<sup>5</sup> by your great wisdom in your trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth--

<sup>6</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you make your heart like the heart of a god,

<sup>7</sup> therefore, behold, I will bring foreigners upon you, the most ruthless

of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor.

<sup>8</sup> They shall thrust you down into the pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the heart of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> Will you still say, 'I am a god,' in the presence of those who kill you, though you are but a man, and no god, in the hands of those who slay you?

<sup>10</sup> You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>12</sup> "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

<sup>13</sup> You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

<sup>14</sup> You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

<sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

<sup>16</sup> In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

<sup>17</sup> Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

<sup>18</sup> By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

<sup>19</sup> All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

<sup>20</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>21</sup> "Son of man, set your face toward Sidon, and prophesy against her

<sup>22</sup> and say, Thus says the Lord GOD:

"Behold, I am against you, O Sidon, and I will manifest my glory in your midst.

And they shall know that I am the LORD

when I execute judgments in her and manifest my holiness in her;

<sup>23</sup> for I will send pestilence into her, and blood into her streets; and the slain shall fall in her midst, by the sword that is against her on every side. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>24</sup> "And for the house of Israel there shall be no more a brier to prick or a thorn to hurt them among all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the Lord GOD.

<sup>25</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and manifest my holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they shall dwell in their own land that I gave to my servant Jacob.

<sup>26</sup> And they shall dwell securely in it, and they shall build houses and plant

vineyards. They shall dwell securely, when I execute judgments upon all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God."

**29**<sup>1</sup> In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt;

<sup>3</sup> speak, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, 'My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.'

<sup>4</sup> I will put hooks in your jaws, and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales; and I will draw you up out of the midst of your streams, with all the fish of your streams that stick to your scales.

<sup>5</sup> And I will cast you out into the wilderness, you and all the fish of your streams; you shall fall on the open field, and not be brought together or gathered. To the beasts of the earth and to the birds of the heavens I give you as food.

<sup>6</sup> Then all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the LORD. "Because you have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel;

<sup>7</sup> when they grasped you with the hand, you broke and tore all their shoulders; and when they leaned on you, you broke and made all their loins to shake.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will bring a sword upon you, and will cut off from you man and beast,

<sup>9</sup> and the land of Egypt shall be a desolation and a waste. Then they will know that I am the LORD. "Because you said, 'The Nile is mine, and I made it,'

<sup>10</sup> therefore, behold, I am against you and against your streams, and I will make the land of Egypt an utter waste and desolation, from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border of Cush.

<sup>11</sup> No foot of man shall pass through it, and no foot of beast shall pass through it; it shall be uninhabited forty years.

<sup>12</sup> And I will make the land of Egypt a desolation in the midst of desolated countries, and her cities shall be a desolation forty years among cities that are laid waste. I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them through the countries.

<sup>13</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were scattered,

<sup>14</sup> and I will restore the fortunes of Egypt and bring them back to the land

of Pathros, the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom.

<sup>15</sup> It shall be the most lowly of the kingdoms, and never again exalt itself above the nations. And I will make them so small that they will never again rule over the nations.

<sup>16</sup> And it shall never again be the reliance of the house of Israel, recalling their iniquity, when they turn to them for aid. Then they will know that I am the Lord GOD."

<sup>17</sup> In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>18</sup> "Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made his army labor hard against Tyre. Every head was made bald, and every shoulder was rubbed bare, yet neither he nor his army got anything

from Tyre to pay for the labor that he had performed against her.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and he shall carry off its wealth and despoil it and plunder it; and it shall be the wages for his army.

<sup>20</sup> I have given him the land of Egypt as his payment for which he labored, because they worked for me, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>21</sup> "On that day I will cause a horn to spring up for the house of Israel, and I will open your lips among them. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

**30** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Wail, 'Alas for the day!'"

<sup>3</sup> For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.

<sup>4</sup> A sword shall come upon Egypt, and anguish shall be in Cush, when the slain fall in Egypt, and her wealth is carried away, and her foundations are torn down.

<sup>5</sup> Cush, and Put, and Lud, and all Arabia, and Libya, and the people of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

<sup>6</sup> "Thus says the LORD: Those who support Egypt shall fall, and her proud might shall come down; from Migdol to Syene they shall fall within her by the sword, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>7</sup> And they shall be desolated in the midst of desolated countries, and their cities shall be in the midst of cities that are laid waste.

<sup>8</sup> Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have set fire to Egypt, and all her helpers are broken.

<sup>9</sup> "On that day messengers shall go out from me in ships to terrify the unsuspecting people of Cush, and anguish shall come upon them on the day of Egypt's doom; for, behold, it comes!

<sup>10</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will put an end to the wealth of Egypt, by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

<sup>11</sup> He and his people with him, the most ruthless of nations, shall be brought in to destroy the land, and they shall draw their swords against Egypt and fill the land with the slain.

<sup>12</sup> And I will dry up the Nile and will sell the land into the hand of evildoers; I will bring desolation upon the land

and everything in it, by the hand of foreigners; I am the LORD; I have spoken.

<sup>13</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will destroy the idols and put an end to the images in Memphis; there shall no longer be a prince from the land of Egypt; so I will put fear in the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> I will make Pathros a desolation and will set fire to Zoan and will execute judgments on Thebes.

<sup>15</sup> And I will pour out my wrath on Pelusium, the stronghold of Egypt, and cut off the multitude of Thebes.

<sup>16</sup> And I will set fire to Egypt; Pelusium shall be in great agony; Thebes shall be breached, and Memphis shall face enemies by day.

<sup>17</sup> The young men of On and of Pi-beseth shall fall by the sword, and the women shall go into captivity.

<sup>18</sup> At Tehaphnehes the day shall be dark, when I break there the yoke bars of Egypt, and her proud might shall come to an end in her; she shall be covered by a cloud, and her daughters shall go into captivity.

<sup>19</sup> Thus I will execute judgments on Egypt. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>20</sup> In the eleventh year, in the first month, on the seventh day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>21</sup> "Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and behold, it has not been bound up, to heal it by binding it with a bandage, so that it may become strong to wield the sword.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt and will break his arms, both the strong arm and the one that was broken,

and I will make the sword fall from his hand.

<sup>23</sup> I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them through the countries.

<sup>24</sup> And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put my sword in his hand, but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him like a man mortally wounded.

<sup>25</sup> I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh shall fall. Then they shall know that I am the LORD, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

**31** <sup>1</sup> In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the

month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: "Whom are you like in your greatness?"

<sup>3</sup> Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches and forest shade, and of towering height, its top among the clouds.

<sup>4</sup> The waters nourished it; the deep made it grow tall, making its rivers flow around the place of its planting, sending forth its streams to all the trees of the field.

<sup>5</sup> So it towered high above all the trees of the field; its boughs grew large and its branches long from abundant water in its shoots.

<sup>6</sup> All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs; under its branches all the beasts of the field gave birth to

their young, and under its shadow lived all great nations.

<sup>7</sup> It was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its branches; for its roots went down to abundant waters.

<sup>8</sup> The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it, nor the fir trees equal its boughs; neither were the plane trees like its branches; no tree in the garden of God was its equal in beauty.

<sup>9</sup> I made it beautiful in the mass of its branches, and all the trees of Eden envied it, that were in the garden of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds, and its heart was proud of its height,

<sup>11</sup> I will give it into the hand of a mighty one of the nations. He shall surely deal with it as its wickedness deserves. I have cast it out.

<sup>12</sup> Foreigners, the most ruthless of nations, have cut it down and left it. On the mountains and in all the valleys its branches have fallen, and its boughs have been broken in all the ravines of the land, and all the peoples of the earth have gone away from its shadow and left it.

<sup>13</sup> On its fallen trunk dwell all the birds of the heavens, and on its branches are all the beasts of the field.

<sup>14</sup> All this is in order that no trees by the waters may grow to towering height or set their tops among the clouds, and that no trees that drink water may reach up to them in height. For they are all given over to death, to the world below, among the children of man, with those who go down to the pit.

<sup>15</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day the cedar went down to Sheol I caused mourning; I closed the deep over it, and

restrained its rivers, and many waters were stopped. I clothed Lebanon in gloom for it, and all the trees of the field fainted because of it.

<sup>16</sup> I made the nations quake at the sound of its fall, when I cast it down to Sheol with those who go down to the pit. And all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, were comforted in the world below.

<sup>17</sup> They also went down to Sheol with it, to those who are slain by the sword; yes, those who were its arm, who lived under its shadow among the nations.

<sup>18</sup> "Whom are you thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? You shall be brought down with the trees of Eden to the world below. You shall lie among the uncircumcised, with those who are slain by the sword. "This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, declares the Lord GOD."

**32** <sup>1</sup> In the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, raise a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: "You consider yourself a lion of the nations, but you are like a dragon in the seas; you burst forth in your rivers, trouble the waters with your feet, and foul their rivers.

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: I will throw my net over you with a host of many peoples, and they will haul you up in my dragnet.

<sup>4</sup> And I will cast you on the ground; on the open field I will fling you, and will cause all the birds of the heavens to settle on you, and I will gorge the beasts of the whole earth with you.

<sup>5</sup> I will strew your flesh upon the mountains and fill the valleys with your carcass.

<sup>6</sup> I will drench the land even to the mountains with your flowing blood, and the ravines will be full of you.

<sup>7</sup> When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens and make their stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light.

<sup>8</sup> All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over you, and put darkness on your land, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> "I will trouble the hearts of many peoples, when I bring your destruction among the nations, into the countries that you have not known.

<sup>10</sup> I will make many peoples appalled at you, and the hair of their kings shall bristle with horror because of you, when I brandish my sword before them. They shall tremble every moment, every

one for his own life, on the day of your downfall.

<sup>11</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon you.

<sup>12</sup> I will cause your multitude to fall by the swords of mighty ones, all of them most ruthless of nations. "They shall bring to ruin the pride of Egypt, and all its multitude shall perish.

<sup>13</sup> I will destroy all its beasts from beside many waters; and no foot of man shall trouble them anymore, nor shall the hoofs of beasts trouble them.

<sup>14</sup> Then I will make their waters clear, and cause their rivers to run like oil, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> When I make the land of Egypt desolate, and when the land is desolate of all that fills it, when I strike down all who dwell in it, then they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>16</sup> This is a lamentation that shall be chanted; the daughters of the nations shall chant it; over Egypt, and over all her multitude, shall they chant it, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>17</sup> In the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>18</sup> "Son of man, wail over the multitude of Egypt, and send them down, her and the daughters of majestic nations, to the world below, to those who have gone down to the pit:

<sup>19</sup> 'Whom do you surpass in beauty? Go down and be laid to rest with the uncircumcised.'

<sup>20</sup> They shall fall amid those who are slain by the sword. Egypt is delivered to the sword; drag her away, and all her multitudes.

<sup>21</sup> The mighty chiefs shall speak of them, with their helpers, out of the midst of Sheol: 'They have come down, they lie still, the uncircumcised, slain by the sword.'

<sup>22</sup> "Assyria is there, and all her company, its graves all around it, all of them slain, fallen by the sword,

<sup>23</sup> whose graves are set in the uttermost parts of the pit; and her company is all around her grave, all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who spread terror in the land of the living.

<sup>24</sup> "Elam is there, and all her multitude around her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who went down uncircumcised into the world below, who spread their terror in the land of the living; and they bear their shame with those who go down to the pit.

<sup>25</sup> They have made her a bed among the slain with all her multitude, her graves

all around it, all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; for terror of them was spread in the land of the living, and they bear their shame with those who go down to the pit; they are placed among the slain.

<sup>26</sup> "Meshech-Tubal is there, and all her multitude, her graves all around it, all of them uncircumcised, slain by the sword; for they spread their terror in the land of the living.

<sup>27</sup> And they do not lie with the mighty, the fallen from among the uncircumcised, who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war, whose swords were laid under their heads, and whose iniquities are upon their bones; for the terror of the mighty men was in the land of the living.

<sup>28</sup> But as for you, you shall be broken and lie among the uncircumcised, with those who are slain by the sword.

<sup>29</sup> "Edom is there, her kings and all her princes, who for all their might are laid with those who are killed by the sword; they lie with the uncircumcised, with those who go down to the pit.

<sup>30</sup> "The princes of the north are there, all of them, and all the Sidonians, who have gone down in shame with the slain, for all the terror that they caused by their might; they lie uncircumcised with those who are slain by the sword, and bear their shame with those who go down to the pit.

<sup>31</sup> "When Pharaoh sees them, he will be comforted for all his multitude, Pharaoh and all his army, slain by the sword, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>32</sup> For I spread terror in the land of the living; and he shall be laid to rest among the uncircumcised, with those who are slain by the sword, Pharaoh and all his multitude, declares the Lord GOD."

**33** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman,

<sup>3</sup> and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people,

<sup>4</sup> then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

<sup>5</sup> He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life.

<sup>6</sup> But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of

them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

<sup>7</sup> "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.

<sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

<sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup> "And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins

are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?'

<sup>11</sup> Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup> "And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins.

<sup>13</sup> Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die.

<sup>14</sup> Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup> if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

<sup>16</sup> None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup> "Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just,' when it is their own way that is not just.

<sup>18</sup> When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it.

<sup>19</sup> And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them.

<sup>20</sup> Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

<sup>21</sup> In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month, a fugitive from Jerusalem came to me and said, "The city has been struck down."

<sup>22</sup> Now the hand of the LORD had been upon me the evening before the fugitive came; and he had opened my mouth by the time the man came to me in the morning, so my mouth was opened, and I was no longer mute.

<sup>23</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>24</sup> "Son of man, the inhabitants of these waste places in the land of Israel keep saying, 'Abraham was only one man, yet he got possession of the land; but we are many; the land is surely given us to possess.'

<sup>25</sup> Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: You eat flesh with the blood and lift up your eyes to your idols and shed blood; shall you then possess the land?

<sup>26</sup> You rely on the sword, you commit abominations, and each of you defiles his neighbor's wife; shall you then possess the land?

<sup>27</sup> Say this to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: As I live, surely those who are in the waste places shall fall by the sword, and whoever is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in strongholds and in caves shall die by pestilence.

<sup>28</sup> And I will make the land a desolation and a waste, and her proud might shall come to an end, and the mountains of Israel shall be so desolate that none will pass through.

<sup>29</sup> Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have made the land a desolation and a waste because of all their abominations that they have committed.

<sup>30</sup> "As for you, son of man, your people who talk together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to his brother, 'Come, and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.'

<sup>31</sup> And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain.

<sup>32</sup> And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument, for they hear what you say, but they will not do it.

<sup>33</sup> When this comes--and come it will!--then they will know that a prophet has been among them."

**34** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?

<sup>3</sup> You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.

<sup>4</sup> The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.

<sup>5</sup> So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts.

<sup>6</sup> My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

<sup>7</sup> "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

<sup>8</sup> As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep,

<sup>9</sup> therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

<sup>10</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require

my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

<sup>11</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

<sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

<sup>13</sup> And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

<sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel

shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>17</sup> "As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.

<sup>18</sup> Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet?

<sup>19</sup> And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

<sup>20</sup> "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

<sup>21</sup> Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad,

<sup>22</sup> I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup> And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

<sup>24</sup> And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

<sup>25</sup> "I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

<sup>26</sup> And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing.

<sup>27</sup> And the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in their land. And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

<sup>28</sup> They shall no more be a prey to the nations, nor shall the beasts of the land devour them. They shall dwell securely, and none shall make them afraid.

<sup>29</sup> And I will provide for them renowned plantations so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land,

and no longer suffer the reproach of the nations.

<sup>30</sup> And they shall know that I am the LORD their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>31</sup> And you are my sheep, human sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Lord GOD."

**35** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir, and prophesy against it,

<sup>3</sup> and say to it, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, Mount Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against you, and I will make you a desolation and a waste.

<sup>4</sup> I will lay your cities waste, and you shall become a desolation, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Because you cherished perpetual enmity and gave over the people of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final punishment,

<sup>6</sup> therefore, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; because you did not hate bloodshed, therefore blood shall pursue you.

<sup>7</sup> I will make Mount Seir a waste and a desolation, and I will cut off from it all who come and go.

<sup>8</sup> And I will fill its mountains with the slain. On your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those slain with the sword shall fall.

<sup>9</sup> I will make you a perpetual desolation, and your cities shall not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> "Because you said, 'These two nations and these two countries shall

be mine, and we will take possession of them'--although the LORD was there--

<sup>11</sup> therefore, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will deal with you according to the anger and envy that you showed because of your hatred against them. And I will make myself known among them, when I judge you.

<sup>12</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD. "I have heard all the revilings that you uttered against the mountains of Israel, saying, 'They are laid desolate; they are given us to devour.'

<sup>13</sup> And you magnified yourselves against me with your mouth, and multiplied your words against me; I heard it.

<sup>14</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: While the whole earth rejoices, I will make you desolate.

<sup>15</sup> As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so I will deal with you; you

shall be desolate, Mount Seir, and all Edom, all of it. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

**36** <sup>1</sup> "And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: Because the enemy said of you, 'Aha!' and, 'The ancient heights have become our possession,'

<sup>3</sup> therefore prophesy, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Precisely because they made you desolate and crushed you from all sides, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you became the talk and evil gossip of the people,

<sup>4</sup> therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD: Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and the hills, the ravines and the valleys, the desolate

wastes and the deserted cities, which have become a prey and derision to the rest of the nations all around,

<sup>5</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Surely I have spoken in my hot jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave my land to themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy and utter contempt, that they might make its pasturelands a prey.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I have spoken in my jealous wrath, because you have suffered the reproach of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: I swear that the nations that are all around you shall themselves suffer reproach.

<sup>8</sup> "But you, O mountains of Israel, shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to my people Israel, for they will soon come home.

<sup>9</sup> For behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown.

<sup>10</sup> And I will multiply people on you, the whole house of Israel, all of it. The cities shall be inhabited and the waste places rebuilt.

<sup>11</sup> And I will multiply on you man and beast, and they shall multiply and be fruitful. And I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times, and will do more good to you than ever before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> I will let people walk on you, even my people Israel. And they shall possess you, and you shall be their inheritance,

and you shall no longer bereave them of children.

<sup>13</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: Because they say to you, 'You devour people, and you bereave your nation of children,'

<sup>14</sup> therefore you shall no longer devour people and no longer bereave your nation of children, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> And I will not let you hear anymore the reproach of the nations, and you shall no longer bear the disgrace of the peoples and no longer cause your nation to stumble, declares the Lord GOD."

<sup>16</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>17</sup> "Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds. Their ways before me were like the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity.

<sup>18</sup> So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed in the

land, for the idols with which they had defiled it.

<sup>19</sup> I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries. In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them.

<sup>20</sup> But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they had to go out of his land.'

<sup>21</sup> But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came.

<sup>22</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

<sup>23</sup> And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned

among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

<sup>24</sup> I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.

<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

<sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

<sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

<sup>28</sup> You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

<sup>29</sup> And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you.

<sup>30</sup> I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

<sup>31</sup> Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.

<sup>32</sup> It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord GOD; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

<sup>33</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt.

<sup>34</sup> And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by.

<sup>35</sup> And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

<sup>36</sup> Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the LORD; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.

<sup>37</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock.

<sup>38</sup> Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled

with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

**37** <sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

<sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

<sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and

cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

<sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."

<sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.'

<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.

<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.

<sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

<sup>15</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>16</sup> "Son of man, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him'; then take another

stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.'

<sup>17</sup> And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.

<sup>18</sup> And when your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what you mean by these?'

<sup>19</sup> say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand.

<sup>20</sup> When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes,

<sup>21</sup> then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them

from all around, and bring them to their own land.

<sup>22</sup> And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.

<sup>23</sup> They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

<sup>24</sup> "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.

<sup>25</sup> They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and

their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever.

<sup>26</sup> I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

<sup>27</sup> My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>28</sup> Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

**38** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him

<sup>3</sup> and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

<sup>4</sup> And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords.

<sup>5</sup> Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;

<sup>6</sup> Gomer and all his hordes; Beth-togarmah from the uttermost parts of the north with all his hordes--many peoples are with you.

<sup>7</sup> "Be ready and keep ready, you and all your hosts that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.

<sup>8</sup> After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from

many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them.

<sup>9</sup> You will advance, coming on like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your hordes, and many peoples with you.

<sup>10</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme

<sup>11</sup> and say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,'

<sup>12</sup> to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations,

who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth.

<sup>13</sup> Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all its leaders will say to you, 'Have you come to seize spoil? Have you assembled your hosts to carry off plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to seize great spoil?'

<sup>14</sup> "Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know it?

<sup>15</sup> You will come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army.

<sup>16</sup> You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. In the latter days I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me,

when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

<sup>17</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: Are you he of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who in those days prophesied for years that I would bring you against them?

<sup>18</sup> But on that day, the day that Gog shall come against the land of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, my wrath will be roused in my anger.

<sup>19</sup> For in my jealousy and in my blazing wrath I declare, On that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.

<sup>20</sup> The fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the field and all creeping things that creep on the ground, and all the people who are on the face of the earth, shall quake at my presence. And the mountains shall be

thrown down, and the cliffs shall fall, and every wall shall tumble to the ground.

<sup>21</sup> I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Lord GOD. Every man's sword will be against his brother.

<sup>22</sup> With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur.

<sup>23</sup> So I will show my greatness and my holiness and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

**39** <sup>1</sup> "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

<sup>2</sup> And I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the

uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> Then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand.

<sup>4</sup> You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

<sup>5</sup> You shall fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>6</sup> I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> "And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

<sup>8</sup> Behold, it is coming and it will be brought about, declares the Lord GOD. That is the day of which I have spoken.

<sup>9</sup> "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears; and they will make fires of them for seven years,

<sup>10</sup> so that they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, for they will make their fires of the weapons. They will seize the spoil of those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>11</sup> "On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea. It will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried. It will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog.

<sup>12</sup> For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.

<sup>13</sup> All the people of the land will bury them, and it will bring them renown on the day that I show my glory, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>14</sup> They will set apart men to travel through the land regularly and bury those travelers remaining on the face of the land, so as to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make their search.

<sup>15</sup> And when these travel through the land and anyone sees a human bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog.

<sup>16</sup> (Hamonah is also the name of the city.) Thus shall they cleanse the land.

<sup>17</sup> "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of

every sort and to all beasts of the field, 'Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood.

<sup>18</sup> You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth--of rams, of lambs, and of he-goats, of bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan.

<sup>19</sup> And you shall eat fat till you are filled, and drink blood till you are drunk, at the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you.

<sup>20</sup> And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,' declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>21</sup> "And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my

judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them.

<sup>22</sup> The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward.

<sup>23</sup> And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword.

<sup>24</sup> I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their transgressions, and hid my face from them.

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name.

<sup>26</sup> They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced

against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid,

<sup>27</sup> when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations.

<sup>28</sup> Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore.

<sup>29</sup> And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD."

**40** <sup>1</sup> In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was struck

down, on that very day, the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me to the city.

<sup>2</sup> In visions of God he brought me to the land of Israel, and set me down on a very high mountain, on which was a structure like a city to the south.

<sup>3</sup> When he brought me there, behold, there was a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring reed in his hand. And he was standing in the gateway.

<sup>4</sup> And the man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes, and hear with your ears, and set your heart upon all that I shall show you, for you were brought here in order that I might show it to you. Declare all that you see to the house of Israel."

<sup>5</sup> And behold, there was a wall all around the outside of the temple area, and the length of the measuring reed

in the man's hand was six long cubits, each being a cubit and a handbreadth in length. So he measured the thickness of the wall, one reed; and the height, one reed.

<sup>6</sup> Then he went into the gateway facing east, going up its steps, and measured the threshold of the gate, one reed deep.

<sup>7</sup> And the side rooms, one reed long and one reed broad; and the space between the side rooms, five cubits; and the threshold of the gate by the vestibule of the gate at the inner end, one reed.

<sup>8</sup> Then he measured the vestibule of the gateway, on the inside, one reed.

<sup>9</sup> Then he measured the vestibule of the gateway, eight cubits; and its jambs, two cubits; and the vestibule of the gate was at the inner end.

<sup>10</sup> And there were three side rooms on either side of the east gate. The three

were of the same size, and the jambs on either side were of the same size.

<sup>11</sup> Then he measured the width of the opening of the gateway, ten cubits; and the length of the gateway, thirteen cubits.

<sup>12</sup> There was a barrier before the side rooms, one cubit on either side. And the side rooms were six cubits on either side.

<sup>13</sup> Then he measured the gate from the ceiling of the one side room to the ceiling of the other, a breadth of twenty-five cubits; the openings faced each other.

<sup>14</sup> He measured also the vestibule, twenty cubits. And around the vestibule of the gateway was the court.

<sup>15</sup> From the front of the gate at the entrance to the front of the inner vestibule of the gate was fifty cubits.

<sup>16</sup> And the gateway had windows all around, narrowing inwards toward the

side rooms and toward their jambs, and likewise the vestibule had windows all around inside, and on the jambs were palm trees.

<sup>17</sup> Then he brought me into the outer court. And behold, there were chambers and a pavement, all around the court. Thirty chambers faced the pavement.

<sup>18</sup> And the pavement ran along the side of the gates, corresponding to the length of the gates. This was the lower pavement.

<sup>19</sup> Then he measured the distance from the inner front of the lower gate to the outer front of the inner court, a hundred cubits on the east side and on the north side.

<sup>20</sup> As for the gate that faced toward the north, belonging to the outer court, he measured its length and its breadth.

<sup>21</sup> Its side rooms, three on either side, and its jambs and its vestibule were of

the same size as those of the first gate. Its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth twenty-five cubits.

<sup>22</sup> And its windows, its vestibule, and its palm trees were of the same size as those of the gate that faced toward the east. And by seven steps people would go up to it, and find its vestibule before them.

<sup>23</sup> And opposite the gate on the north, as on the east, was a gate to the inner court. And he measured from gate to gate, a hundred cubits.

<sup>24</sup> And he led me toward the south, and behold, there was a gate on the south. And he measured its jambs and its vestibule; they had the same size as the others.

<sup>25</sup> Both it and its vestibule had windows all around, like the windows of the others. Its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth twenty-five cubits.

<sup>26</sup> And there were seven steps leading up to it, and its vestibule was before them, and it had palm trees on its jambs, one on either side.

<sup>27</sup> And there was a gate on the south of the inner court. And he measured from gate to gate toward the south, a hundred cubits.

<sup>28</sup> Then he brought me to the inner court through the south gate, and he measured the south gate. It was of the same size as the others.

<sup>29</sup> Its side rooms, its jambs, and its vestibule were of the same size as the others, and both it and its vestibule had windows all around. Its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth twenty-five cubits.

<sup>30</sup> And there were vestibules all around, twenty-five cubits long and five cubits broad.

<sup>31</sup> Its vestibule faced the outer court, and palm trees were on its jambs, and its stairway had eight steps.

<sup>32</sup> Then he brought me to the inner court on the east side, and he measured the gate. It was of the same size as the others.

<sup>33</sup> Its side rooms, its jambs, and its vestibule were of the same size as the others, and both it and its vestibule had windows all around. Its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth twenty-five cubits.

<sup>34</sup> Its vestibule faced the outer court, and it had palm trees on its jambs, on either side, and its stairway had eight steps.

<sup>35</sup> Then he brought me to the north gate, and he measured it. It had the same size as the others.

<sup>36</sup> Its side rooms, its jambs, and its vestibule were of the same size as the

others, and it had windows all around. Its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth twenty-five cubits.

<sup>37</sup> Its vestibule faced the outer court, and it had palm trees on its jambs, on either side, and its stairway had eight steps.

<sup>38</sup> There was a chamber with its door in the vestibule of the gate, where the burnt offering was to be washed.

<sup>39</sup> And in the vestibule of the gate were two tables on either side, on which the burnt offering and the sin offering and the guilt offering were to be slaughtered.

<sup>40</sup> And off to the side, on the outside as one goes up to the entrance of the north gate, were two tables; and off to the other side of the vestibule of the gate were two tables.

<sup>41</sup> Four tables were on either side of the gate, eight tables, on which to slaughter.

<sup>42</sup> And there were four tables of hewn stone for the burnt offering, a cubit and a half long, and a cubit and a half broad, and one cubit high, on which the instruments were to be laid with which the burnt offerings and the sacrifices were slaughtered.

<sup>43</sup> And hooks, a handbreadth long, were fastened all around within. And on the tables the flesh of the offering was to be laid.

<sup>44</sup> On the outside of the inner gateway there were two chambers in the inner court, one at the side of the north gate facing south, the other at the side of the south gate facing north.

<sup>45</sup> And he said to me, This chamber that faces south is for the priests who have charge of the temple,

<sup>46</sup> and the chamber that faces north is for the priests who have charge of the altar. These are the sons of Zadok, who

alone among the sons of Levi may come near to the LORD to minister to him.

<sup>47</sup> And he measured the court, a hundred cubits long and a hundred cubits broad, a square. And the altar was in front of the temple.

<sup>48</sup> Then he brought me to the vestibule of the temple and measured the jambs of the vestibule, five cubits on either side. And the breadth of the gate was fourteen cubits, and the sidewalls of the gate were three cubits on either side.

<sup>49</sup> The length of the vestibule was twenty cubits, and the breadth twelve cubits, and people would go up to it by ten steps. And there were pillars beside the jambs, one on either side.

**41** <sup>1</sup> Then he brought me to the nave and measured the jambs. On each side six cubits was the breadth of the jambs.

<sup>2</sup> And the breadth of the entrance was ten cubits, and the sidewalls of the entrance were five cubits on either side. And he measured the length of the nave, forty cubits, and its breadth, twenty cubits.

<sup>3</sup> Then he went into the inner room and measured the jambs of the entrance, two cubits; and the entrance, six cubits; and the sidewalls on either side of the entrance, seven cubits.

<sup>4</sup> And he measured the length of the room, twenty cubits, and its breadth, twenty cubits, across the nave. And he said to me, "This is the Most Holy Place."

<sup>5</sup> Then he measured the wall of the temple, six cubits thick, and the breadth of the side chambers, four cubits, all around the temple.

<sup>6</sup> And the side chambers were in three stories, one over another, thirty in each story. There were offsets all around the

wall of the temple to serve as supports for the side chambers, so that they should not be supported by the wall of the temple.

<sup>7</sup> And it became broader as it wound upward to the side chambers, because the temple was enclosed upward all around the temple. Thus the temple had a broad area upward, and so one went up from the lowest story to the top story through the middle story.

<sup>8</sup> I saw also that the temple had a raised platform all around; the foundations of the side chambers measured a full reed of six long cubits.

<sup>9</sup> The thickness of the outer wall of the side chambers was five cubits. The free space between the side chambers of the temple and the

<sup>10</sup> other chambers was a breadth of twenty cubits all around the temple on every side.

<sup>11</sup> And the doors of the side chambers opened on the free space, one door toward the north, and another door toward the south. And the breadth of the free space was five cubits all around.

<sup>12</sup> The building that was facing the separate yard on the west side was seventy cubits broad, and the wall of the building was five cubits thick all around, and its length ninety cubits.

<sup>13</sup> Then he measured the temple, a hundred cubits long; and the yard and the building with its walls, a hundred cubits long;

<sup>14</sup> also the breadth of the east front of the temple and the yard, a hundred cubits.

<sup>15</sup> Then he measured the length of the building facing the yard that was at the back and its galleries on either side, a hundred cubits. The inside of the nave and the vestibules of the court,

<sup>16</sup> the thresholds and the narrow windows and the galleries all around the three of them, opposite the threshold, were paneled with wood all around, from the floor up to the windows (now the windows were covered),

<sup>17</sup> to the space above the door, even to the inner room, and on the outside. And on all the walls all around, inside and outside, was a measured pattern.

<sup>18</sup> It was carved of cherubim and palm trees, a palm tree between cherub and cherub. Every cherub had two faces:

<sup>19</sup> a human face toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side. They were carved on the whole temple all around.

<sup>20</sup> From the floor to above the door, cherubim and palm trees were carved; similarly the wall of the nave.

<sup>21</sup> The doorposts of the nave were squared, and in front of the Holy Place was something resembling

<sup>22</sup> an altar of wood, three cubits high, two cubits long, and two cubits broad. Its corners, its base, and its walls were of wood. He said to me, "This is the table that is before the LORD."

<sup>23</sup> The nave and the Holy Place had each a double door.

<sup>24</sup> The double doors had two leaves apiece, two swinging leaves for each door.

<sup>25</sup> And on the doors of the nave were carved cherubim and palm trees, such as were carved on the walls. And there was a canopy of wood in front of the vestibule outside.

<sup>26</sup> And there were narrow windows and palm trees on either side, on the sidewalls of the vestibule, the

side chambers of the temple, and the canopies.

**42** <sup>1</sup> Then he led me out into the outer court, toward the north, and he brought me to the chambers that were opposite the separate yard and opposite the building on the north.

<sup>2</sup> The length of the building whose door faced north was a hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty cubits.

<sup>3</sup> Facing the twenty cubits that belonged to the inner court, and facing the pavement that belonged to the outer court, was gallery against gallery in three stories.

<sup>4</sup> And before the chambers was a passage inward, ten cubits wide and a hundred cubits long, and their doors were on the north.

<sup>5</sup> Now the upper chambers were narrower, for the galleries took more

away from them than from the lower and middle chambers of the building.

<sup>6</sup> For they were in three stories, and they had no pillars like the pillars of the courts. Thus the upper chambers were set back from the ground more than the lower and the middle ones.

<sup>7</sup> And there was a wall outside parallel to the chambers, toward the outer court, opposite the chambers, fifty cubits long.

<sup>8</sup> For the chambers on the outer court were fifty cubits long, while those opposite the nave were a hundred cubits long.

<sup>9</sup> Below these chambers was an entrance on the east side, as one enters them from the outer court.

<sup>10</sup> In the thickness of the wall of the court, on the south also, opposite the yard and opposite the building, there were chambers

<sup>11</sup> with a passage in front of them. They were similar to the chambers on the north, of the same length and breadth, with the same exits and arrangements and doors,

<sup>12</sup> as were the entrances of the chambers on the south. There was an entrance at the beginning of the passage, the passage before the corresponding wall on the east as one enters them.

<sup>13</sup> Then he said to me, "The north chambers and the south chambers opposite the yard are the holy chambers, where the priests who approach the LORD shall eat the most holy offerings. There they shall put the most holy offerings--the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering, for the place is holy.

<sup>14</sup> When the priests enter the Holy Place, they shall not go out of it into the outer court without laying there the

garments in which they minister, for these are holy. They shall put on other garments before they go near to that which is for the people."

<sup>15</sup> Now when he had finished measuring the interior of the temple area, he led me out by the gate that faced east, and measured the temple area all around.

<sup>16</sup> He measured the east side with the measuring reed, 500 cubits by the measuring reed all around.

<sup>17</sup> He measured the north side, 500 cubits by the measuring reed all around.

<sup>18</sup> He measured the south side, 500 cubits by the measuring reed.

<sup>19</sup> Then he turned to the west side and measured, 500 cubits by the measuring reed.

<sup>20</sup> He measured it on the four sides. It had a wall around it, 500 cubits long and 500 cubits broad, to make a separation between the holy and the common.

**43** <sup>1</sup> Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east.

<sup>2</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.

<sup>3</sup> And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face.

<sup>4</sup> As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east,

<sup>5</sup> the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

<sup>6</sup> While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple,

<sup>7</sup> and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of

the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places,

<sup>8</sup> by setting their threshold by my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them. They have defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in my anger.

<sup>9</sup> Now let them put away their whoring and the dead bodies of their kings far from me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.

<sup>10</sup> "As for you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and they shall measure the plan.

<sup>11</sup> And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, that is, its whole design; and make known to them as well all its statutes and its whole design and all its laws, and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out.

<sup>12</sup> This is the law of the temple: the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.

<sup>13</sup> "These are the measurements of the altar by cubits (the cubit being a cubit and a handbreadth): its base shall be one cubit high and one cubit broad, with a rim of one span around its edge. And this shall be the height of the altar:

<sup>14</sup> from the base on the ground to the lower ledge, two cubits, with a breadth

of one cubit; and from the smaller ledge to the larger ledge, four cubits, with a breadth of one cubit;

<sup>15</sup> and the altar hearth, four cubits; and from the altar hearth projecting upward, four horns.

<sup>16</sup> The altar hearth shall be square, twelve cubits long by twelve broad.

<sup>17</sup> The ledge also shall be square, fourteen cubits long by fourteen broad, with a rim around it half a cubit broad, and its base one cubit all around. The steps of the altar shall face east."

<sup>18</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: These are the ordinances for the altar: On the day when it is erected for offering burnt offerings upon it and for throwing blood against it,

<sup>19</sup> you shall give to the Levitical priests of the family of Zadok, who draw near to me to minister to me, declares the

Lord GOD, a bull from the herd for a sin offering.

<sup>20</sup> And you shall take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar and on the four corners of the ledge and upon the rim all around. Thus you shall purify the altar and make atonement for it.

<sup>21</sup> You shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and it shall be burned in the appointed place belonging to the temple, outside the sacred area.

<sup>22</sup> And on the second day you shall offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering; and the altar shall be purified, as it was purified with the bull.

<sup>23</sup> When you have finished purifying it, you shall offer a bull from the herd without blemish and a ram from the flock without blemish.

<sup>24</sup> You shall present them before the LORD, and the priests shall sprinkle salt

on them and offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> For seven days you shall provide daily a male goat for a sin offering; also, a bull from the herd and a ram from the flock, without blemish, shall be provided.

<sup>26</sup> Seven days shall they make atonement for the altar and cleanse it, and so consecrate it.

<sup>27</sup> And when they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer on the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, and I will accept you, declares the Lord GOD."

**44** <sup>1</sup> Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east. And it was shut.

<sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the

LORD, the God of Israel, has entered by it. Therefore it shall remain shut.

<sup>3</sup> Only the prince may sit in it to eat bread before the LORD. He shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way."

<sup>4</sup> Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple of the LORD. And I fell on my face.

<sup>5</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all that I shall tell you concerning all the statutes of the temple of the LORD and all its laws. And mark well the entrance to the temple and all the exits from the sanctuary.

<sup>6</sup> And say to the rebellious house, to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: O house of Israel, enough of all your abominations,

<sup>7</sup> in admitting foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, to be in my sanctuary, profaning my temple, when you offer to me my food, the fat and the blood. You have broken my covenant, in addition to all your abominations.

<sup>8</sup> And you have not kept charge of my holy things, but you have set others to keep my charge for you in my sanctuary.

<sup>9</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the people of Israel, shall enter my sanctuary.

<sup>10</sup> But the Levites who went far from me, going astray from me after their idols when Israel went astray, shall bear their punishment.

<sup>11</sup> They shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the temple and ministering in the temple. They shall slaughter the burnt

offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before the people, to minister to them.

<sup>12</sup> Because they ministered to them before their idols and became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel, therefore I have sworn concerning them, declares the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their punishment.

<sup>13</sup> They shall not come near to me, to serve me as priest, nor come near any of my holy things and the things that are most holy, but they shall bear their shame and the abominations that they have committed.

<sup>14</sup> Yet I will appoint them to keep charge of the temple, to do all its service and all that is to be done in it.

<sup>15</sup> "But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept the charge of my sanctuary when the people of Israel went astray from me, shall come near

to me to minister to me. And they shall stand before me to offer me the fat and the blood, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> They shall enter my sanctuary, and they shall approach my table, to minister to me, and they shall keep my charge.

<sup>17</sup> When they enter the gates of the inner court, they shall wear linen garments. They shall have nothing of wool on them, while they minister at the gates of the inner court, and within.

<sup>18</sup> They shall have linen turbans on their heads, and linen undergarments around their waists. They shall not bind themselves with anything that causes sweat.

<sup>19</sup> And when they go out into the outer court to the people, they shall put off the garments in which they have been ministering and lay them in the holy chambers. And they shall put on other garments, lest they communicate

holiness to the people with their garments.

<sup>20</sup> They shall not shave their heads or let their locks grow long; they shall surely trim the hair of their heads.

<sup>21</sup> No priest shall drink wine when he enters the inner court.

<sup>22</sup> They shall not marry a widow or a divorced woman, but only virgins of the offspring of the house of Israel, or a widow who is the widow of a priest.

<sup>23</sup> They shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the common, and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.

<sup>24</sup> In a dispute, they shall act as judges, and they shall judge it according to my judgments. They shall keep my laws and my statutes in all my appointed feasts, and they shall keep my Sabbaths holy.

<sup>25</sup> They shall not defile themselves by going near to a dead person. However, for father or mother, for son or daughter, for brother or unmarried sister they may defile themselves.

<sup>26</sup> After he has become clean, they shall count seven days for him.

<sup>27</sup> And on the day that he goes into the Holy Place, into the inner court, to minister in the Holy Place, he shall offer his sin offering, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>28</sup> "This shall be their inheritance: I am their inheritance: and you shall give them no possession in Israel; I am their possession.

<sup>29</sup> They shall eat the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering, and every devoted thing in Israel shall be theirs.

<sup>30</sup> And the first of all the firstfruits of all kinds, and every offering of all kinds from all your offerings, shall belong to

the priests. You shall also give to the priests the first of your dough, that a blessing may rest on your house.

<sup>31</sup> The priests shall not eat of anything, whether bird or beast, that has died of itself or is torn by wild animals.

**45** <sup>1</sup> "When you allot the land as an inheritance, you shall set apart for the LORD a portion of the land as a holy district, 25,000 cubits long and 20,000 cubits broad. It shall be holy throughout its whole extent.

<sup>2</sup> Of this a square plot of 500 by 500 cubits shall be for the sanctuary, with fifty cubits for an open space around it.

<sup>3</sup> And from this measured district you shall measure off a section 25,000 cubits long and 10,000 broad, in which shall be the sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.

<sup>4</sup> It shall be the holy portion of the land. It shall be for the priests, who minister in the sanctuary and approach the LORD

to minister to him, and it shall be a place for their houses and a holy place for the sanctuary.

<sup>5</sup> Another section, 25,000 cubits long and 10,000 cubits broad, shall be for the Levites who minister at the temple, as their possession for cities to live in.

<sup>6</sup> "Alongside the portion set apart as the holy district you shall assign for the property of the city an area 5,000 cubits broad and 25,000 cubits long. It shall belong to the whole house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> "And to the prince shall belong the land on both sides of the holy district and the property of the city, alongside the holy district and the property of the city, on the west and on the east, corresponding in length to one of the tribal portions, and extending from the western to the eastern boundary

<sup>8</sup> of the land. It is to be his property in Israel. And my princes shall no more

oppress my people, but they shall let the house of Israel have the land according to their tribes.

<sup>9</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: Enough, O princes of Israel! Put away violence and oppression, and execute justice and righteousness. Cease your evictions of my people, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>10</sup> "You shall have just balances, a just ephah, and a just bath.

<sup>11</sup> The ephah and the bath shall be of the same measure, the bath containing one tenth of a homer, and the ephah one tenth of a homer; the homer shall be the standard measure.

<sup>12</sup> The shekel shall be twenty gerahs; twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels shall be your mina.

<sup>13</sup> "This is the offering that you shall make: one sixth of an ephah from each homer of wheat, and one sixth of an ephah from each homer of barley,

<sup>14</sup> and as the fixed portion of oil, measured in baths, one tenth of a bath from each cor (the cor, like the homer, contains ten baths).

<sup>15</sup> And one sheep from every flock of two hundred, from the watering places of Israel for grain offering, burnt offering, and peace offerings, to make atonement for them, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> All the people of the land shall be obliged to give this offering to the prince in Israel.

<sup>17</sup> It shall be the prince's duty to furnish the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, at the feasts, the new moons, and the Sabbaths, all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel: he shall provide the sin offerings, grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement on behalf of the house of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: In the first month, on the first day of the month, you shall take a bull from the herd without blemish, and purify the sanctuary.

<sup>19</sup> The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering and put it on the doorposts of the temple, the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and the posts of the gate of the inner court.

<sup>20</sup> You shall do the same on the seventh day of the month for anyone who has sinned through error or ignorance; so you shall make atonement for the temple.

<sup>21</sup> "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall celebrate the Feast of the Passover, and for seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten.

<sup>22</sup> On that day the prince shall provide for himself and all the people of the land a young bull for a sin offering.

<sup>23</sup> And on the seven days of the festival he shall provide as a burnt offering to the LORD seven young bulls and seven rams without blemish, on each of the seven days; and a male goat daily for a sin offering.

<sup>24</sup> And he shall provide as a grain offering an ephah for each bull, an ephah for each ram, and a hin of oil to each ephah.

<sup>25</sup> In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month and for the seven days of the feast, he shall make the same provision for sin offerings, burnt offerings, and grain offerings, and for the oil.

**46** <sup>1</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: The gate of the inner court that faces east shall be shut on the six working days, but on the Sabbath day it shall be opened, and on the day of the new moon it shall be opened.

<sup>2</sup> The prince shall enter by the vestibule of the gate from outside, and shall take his stand by the post of the gate. The priests shall offer his burnt offering and his peace offerings, and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate. Then he shall go out, but the gate shall not be shut until evening.

<sup>3</sup> The people of the land shall bow down at the entrance of that gate before the LORD on the Sabbaths and on the new moons.

<sup>4</sup> The burnt offering that the prince offers to the LORD on the Sabbath day shall be six lambs without blemish and a ram without blemish.

<sup>5</sup> And the grain offering with the ram shall be an ephah, and the grain offering with the lambs shall be as much as he is able, together with a hin of oil to each ephah.

<sup>6</sup> On the day of the new moon he shall offer a bull from the herd without blemish, and six lambs and a ram, which shall be without blemish.

<sup>7</sup> As a grain offering he shall provide an ephah with the bull and an ephah with the ram, and with the lambs as much as he is able, together with a hin of oil to each ephah.

<sup>8</sup> When the prince enters, he shall enter by the vestibule of the gate, and he shall go out by the same way.

<sup>9</sup> "When the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed feasts, he who enters by the north gate to worship shall go out by the south gate, and he who enters by the south gate shall go out by the north gate: no one shall return by way of the gate by which he entered, but each shall go out straight ahead.

<sup>10</sup> When they enter, the prince shall enter with them, and when they go out, he shall go out.

<sup>11</sup> "At the feasts and the appointed festivals, the grain offering with a young bull shall be an ephah, and with a ram an ephah, and with the lambs as much as one is able to give, together with a hin of oil to an ephah.

<sup>12</sup> When the prince provides a freewill offering, either a burnt offering or peace offerings as a freewill offering to the LORD, the gate facing east shall be opened for him. And he shall offer his burnt offering or his peace offerings as he does on the Sabbath day. Then he shall go out, and after he has gone out the gate shall be shut.

<sup>13</sup> "You shall provide a lamb a year old without blemish for a burnt offering to the LORD daily; morning by morning you shall provide it.

<sup>14</sup> And you shall provide a grain offering with it morning by morning, one sixth of an ephah, and one third of a hin of oil to moisten the flour, as a grain offering to the LORD. This is a perpetual statute.

<sup>15</sup> Thus the lamb and the meal offering and the oil shall be provided, morning by morning, for a regular burnt offering.

<sup>16</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD: If the prince makes a gift to any of his sons as his inheritance, it shall belong to his sons. It is their property by inheritance.

<sup>17</sup> But if he makes a gift out of his inheritance to one of his servants, it shall be his to the year of liberty. Then it shall revert to the prince; surely it is his inheritance--it shall belong to his sons.

<sup>18</sup> The prince shall not take any of the inheritance of the people, thrusting them out of their property. He shall give his sons their inheritance out of his own

property, so that none of my people shall be scattered from his property."

<sup>19</sup> Then he brought me through the entrance, which was at the side of the gate, to the north row of the holy chambers for the priests, and behold, a place was there at the extreme western end of them.

<sup>20</sup> And he said to me, "This is the place where the priests shall boil the guilt offering and the sin offering, and where they shall bake the grain offering, in order not to bring them out into the outer court and so communicate holiness to the people."

<sup>21</sup> Then he brought me out to the outer court and led me around to the four corners of the court. And behold, in each corner of the court there was another court--

<sup>22</sup> in the four corners of the court were small courts, forty cubits long and thirty broad; the four were of the same size.

<sup>23</sup> On the inside, around each of the four courts was a row of masonry, with hearths made at the bottom of the rows all around.

<sup>24</sup> Then he said to me, "These are the kitchens where those who minister at the temple shall boil the sacrifices of the people."

**47** <sup>1</sup> Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.

<sup>2</sup> Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces

toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.

<sup>3</sup> Going on eastward with a measuring line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep.

<sup>4</sup> Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was waist-deep.

<sup>5</sup> Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river.

<sup>7</sup> As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other.

<sup>8</sup> And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh.

<sup>9</sup> And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.

<sup>10</sup> Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea.

<sup>11</sup> But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt.

<sup>12</sup> And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

<sup>13</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: "This is the boundary by which you shall divide the land for inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph shall have two portions.

<sup>14</sup> And you shall divide equally what I swore to give to your fathers. This land shall fall to you as your inheritance.

<sup>15</sup> "This shall be the boundary of the land: On the north side, from the Great Sea by way of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath, and on to Zedad,

<sup>16</sup> Berothah, Sibraim (which lies on the border between Damascus and

Hamath), as far as Hazer-hatticon, which is on the border of Hauran.

<sup>17</sup> So the boundary shall run from the sea to Hazar-enan, which is on the northern border of Damascus, with the border of Hamath to the north. This shall be the north side.

<sup>18</sup> "On the east side, the boundary shall run between Hauran and Damascus; along the Jordan between Gilead and the land of Israel; to the eastern sea and as far as Tamar. This shall be the east side.

<sup>19</sup> "On the south side, it shall run from Tamar as far as the waters of Meribah-kadesh, from there along the Brook of Egypt to the Great Sea. This shall be the south side.

<sup>20</sup> "On the west side, the Great Sea shall be the boundary to a point opposite Lebo-hamath. This shall be the west side.

<sup>21</sup> "So you shall divide this land among you according to the tribes of Israel.

<sup>22</sup> You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the sojourners who reside among you and have had children among you. They shall be to you as native-born children of Israel. With you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.

<sup>23</sup> In whatever tribe the sojourner resides, there you shall assign him his inheritance, declares the Lord GOD.

**48** <sup>1</sup> "These are the names of the tribes: Beginning at the northern extreme, beside the way of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath, as far as Hazar-enan (which is on the northern border of Damascus over against Hamath), and extending from the east side to the west, Dan, one portion.

<sup>2</sup> Adjoining the territory of Dan, from the east side to the west, Asher, one portion.

<sup>3</sup> Adjoining the territory of Asher, from the east side to the west, Naphtali, one portion.

<sup>4</sup> Adjoining the territory of Naphtali, from the east side to the west, Manasseh, one portion.

<sup>5</sup> Adjoining the territory of Manasseh, from the east side to the west, Ephraim, one portion.

<sup>6</sup> Adjoining the territory of Ephraim, from the east side to the west, Reuben, one portion.

<sup>7</sup> Adjoining the territory of Reuben, from the east side to the west, Judah, one portion.

<sup>8</sup> "Adjoining the territory of Judah, from the east side to the west, shall be the portion which you shall set apart, 25,000 cubits in breadth, and in length equal to

one of the tribal portions, from the east side to the west, with the sanctuary in the midst of it.

<sup>9</sup> The portion that you shall set apart for the LORD shall be 25,000 cubits in length, and 20,000 in breadth.

<sup>10</sup> These shall be the allotments of the holy portion: the priests shall have an allotment measuring 25,000 cubits on the northern side, 10,000 cubits in breadth on the western side, 10,000 in breadth on the eastern side, and 25,000 in length on the southern side, with the sanctuary of the LORD in the midst of it.

<sup>11</sup> This shall be for the consecrated priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept my charge, who did not go astray when the people of Israel went astray, as the Levites did.

<sup>12</sup> And it shall belong to them as a special portion from the holy portion of

the land, a most holy place, adjoining the territory of the Levites.

<sup>13</sup> And alongside the territory of the priests, the Levites shall have an allotment 25,000 cubits in length and 10,000 in breadth. The whole length shall be 25,000 cubits and the breadth 20,000.

<sup>14</sup> They shall not sell or exchange any of it. They shall not alienate this choice portion of the land, for it is holy to the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> "The remainder, 5,000 cubits in breadth and 25,000 in length, shall be for common use for the city, for dwellings and for open country. In the midst of it shall be the city,

<sup>16</sup> and these shall be its measurements: the north side 4,500 cubits, the south side 4,500, the east side 4,500, and the west side 4,500.

<sup>17</sup> And the city shall have open land: on the north 250 cubits, on the south 250, on the east 250, and on the west 250.

<sup>18</sup> The remainder of the length alongside the holy portion shall be 10,000 cubits to the east, and 10,000 to the west, and it shall be alongside the holy portion. Its produce shall be food for the workers of the city.

<sup>19</sup> And the workers of the city, from all the tribes of Israel, shall till it.

<sup>20</sup> The whole portion that you shall set apart shall be 25,000 cubits square, that is, the holy portion together with the property of the city.

<sup>21</sup> "What remains on both sides of the holy portion and of the property of the city shall belong to the prince. Extending from the 25,000 cubits of the holy portion to the east border, and westward from the 25,000 cubits to the west border, parallel to the tribal

portions, it shall belong to the prince. The holy portion with the sanctuary of the temple shall be in its midst.

<sup>22</sup> It shall be separate from the property of the Levites and the property of the city, which are in the midst of that which belongs to the prince. The portion of the prince shall lie between the territory of Judah and the territory of Benjamin.

<sup>23</sup> "As for the rest of the tribes: from the east side to the west, Benjamin, one portion.

<sup>24</sup> Adjoining the territory of Benjamin, from the east side to the west, Simeon, one portion.

<sup>25</sup> Adjoining the territory of Simeon, from the east side to the west, Issachar, one portion.

<sup>26</sup> Adjoining the territory of Issachar, from the east side to the west, Zebulun, one portion.

<sup>27</sup> Adjoining the territory of Zebulun, from the east side to the west, Gad, one portion.

<sup>28</sup> And adjoining the territory of Gad to the south, the boundary shall run from Tamar to the waters of Meribah-kadesh, from there along the Brook of Egypt to the Great Sea.

<sup>29</sup> This is the land that you shall allot as an inheritance among the tribes of Israel, and these are their portions, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>30</sup> "These shall be the exits of the city: On the north side, which is to be 4,500 cubits by measure,

<sup>31</sup> three gates, the gate of Reuben, the gate of Judah, and the gate of Levi, the gates of the city being named after the tribes of Israel.

<sup>32</sup> On the east side, which is to be 4,500 cubits, three gates, the gate of Joseph,

the gate of Benjamin, and the gate of Dan.

<sup>33</sup> On the south side, which is to be 4,500 cubits by measure, three gates, the gate of Simeon, the gate of Issachar, and the gate of Zebulun.

<sup>34</sup> On the west side, which is to be 4,500 cubits, three gates, the gate of Gad, the gate of Asher, and the gate of Naphtali.

<sup>35</sup> The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be, The LORD is there."

# Daniel

**1** <sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

<sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility,

<sup>4</sup> youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent

to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

<sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.

<sup>6</sup> Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah.

<sup>7</sup> And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

<sup>9</sup> And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs,

<sup>10</sup> and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king."

<sup>11</sup> Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

<sup>12</sup> "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.

<sup>13</sup> Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see."

<sup>14</sup> So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup> At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food.

<sup>16</sup> So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

<sup>17</sup> As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>19</sup> And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king.

<sup>20</sup> And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

<sup>21</sup> And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**2**<sup>1</sup> In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him.

<sup>2</sup> Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

<sup>3</sup> And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream."

<sup>4</sup> Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your

servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation."

<sup>5</sup> The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins.

<sup>6</sup> But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation."

<sup>7</sup> They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation."

<sup>8</sup> The king answered and said, "I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm--

<sup>9</sup> if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation."

<sup>10</sup> The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean.

<sup>11</sup> The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

<sup>12</sup> Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed.

<sup>13</sup> So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

<sup>14</sup> Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon.

<sup>15</sup> He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel.

<sup>16</sup> And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

<sup>18</sup> and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might

not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

<sup>19</sup> Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

<sup>22</sup> he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

<sup>23</sup> To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him, "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation."

<sup>25</sup> Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation."

<sup>26</sup> The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?"

<sup>27</sup> Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,

<sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made

known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:

<sup>29</sup> To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.

<sup>30</sup> But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

<sup>31</sup> "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening.

<sup>32</sup> The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze,

<sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

<sup>34</sup> As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

<sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup> "This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation.

<sup>37</sup> You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory,

<sup>38</sup> and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all--you are the head of gold.

<sup>39</sup> Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

<sup>40</sup> And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these.

<sup>41</sup> And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay.

<sup>42</sup> And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the

kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle.

<sup>43</sup> As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

<sup>44</sup> And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

<sup>45</sup> just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel,

and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him.

<sup>47</sup> The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."

<sup>48</sup> Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

<sup>49</sup> Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

**3**<sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

<sup>2</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>3</sup> Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>4</sup> And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

<sup>5</sup> that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall

down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

<sup>6</sup> And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace."

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.

<sup>9</sup> They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!

<sup>10</sup> You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image.

<sup>11</sup> And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

<sup>12</sup> There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

<sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king.

<sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

<sup>15</sup> Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music,

to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

<sup>17</sup> If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

<sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace

heated seven times more than it was usually heated.

<sup>20</sup> And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

<sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

<sup>22</sup> Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

<sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?"

They answered and said to the king,  
"True, O king."

<sup>25</sup> He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

<sup>26</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

<sup>27</sup> And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

<sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

<sup>29</sup> Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way."

<sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

**4** <sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you!

<sup>2</sup> It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

<sup>3</sup> How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

<sup>4</sup> I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace.

<sup>5</sup> I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me.

<sup>6</sup> So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

<sup>7</sup> Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation.

<sup>8</sup> At last Daniel came in before me--he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods--and I told him the dream, saying,

<sup>9</sup> "O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation.

<sup>10</sup> The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great.

<sup>11</sup> The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.

<sup>12</sup> Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it,

and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

<sup>13</sup> "I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

<sup>15</sup> But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him.

<sup>17</sup> The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of

the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'

<sup>18</sup> This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

<sup>19</sup> Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, "Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!

<sup>20</sup> The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached

to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth,

<sup>21</sup> whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived--

<sup>22</sup> it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth.

<sup>23</sup> And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,'

<sup>24</sup> this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king,

<sup>25</sup> that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.

<sup>26</sup> And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.

<sup>27</sup> Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the

oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity."

<sup>28</sup> All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>29</sup> At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,

<sup>30</sup> and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?"

<sup>31</sup> While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,

<sup>32</sup> and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the

kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."

<sup>33</sup> Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

<sup>34</sup> At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

<sup>35</sup> all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of

the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

<sup>36</sup> At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.

<sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

**5** <sup>1</sup> King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

<sup>2</sup> Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and

his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them.

<sup>3</sup> Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.

<sup>4</sup> They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup> Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote.

<sup>6</sup> Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

<sup>7</sup> The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever

reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

<sup>8</sup> Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation.

<sup>9</sup> Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

<sup>10</sup> The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change.

<sup>11</sup> There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the

wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father--your father the king--made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers,

<sup>12</sup> because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation."

<sup>13</sup> Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah.

<sup>14</sup> I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you.

<sup>15</sup> Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter.

<sup>16</sup> But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.

<sup>18</sup> O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty.

<sup>19</sup> And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled.

<sup>20</sup> But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him.

<sup>21</sup> He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will.

<sup>22</sup> And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this,

<sup>23</sup> but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

<sup>24</sup> "Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed.

<sup>25</sup> And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN.

<sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the

days of your kingdom and brought it to an end;

<sup>27</sup> TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting;

<sup>28</sup> PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

<sup>29</sup> Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

<sup>30</sup> That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.

<sup>31</sup> And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

**6** <sup>1</sup> It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom;

<sup>2</sup> and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these

satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.

<sup>3</sup> Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

<sup>4</sup> Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.

<sup>5</sup> Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

<sup>6</sup> Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever!

<sup>7</sup> All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

<sup>8</sup> Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked."

<sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

<sup>10</sup> When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

<sup>11</sup> Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.

<sup>12</sup> Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked."

<sup>13</sup> Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

<sup>14</sup> Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his

mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him.

<sup>15</sup> Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

<sup>16</sup> Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"

<sup>17</sup> And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

<sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

<sup>19</sup> Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions.

<sup>20</sup> As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever!

<sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."

<sup>23</sup> Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

<sup>24</sup> And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions--they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>26</sup> I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.

<sup>27</sup> He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

<sup>28</sup> So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

**7** <sup>1</sup> In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

<sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

<sup>4</sup> The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

<sup>5</sup> And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth

between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'

<sup>6</sup> After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

<sup>7</sup> After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

<sup>8</sup> I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

<sup>9</sup> As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

<sup>10</sup> A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

<sup>11</sup> I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.

<sup>12</sup> As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

<sup>13</sup> I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came

one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

<sup>15</sup> "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me.

<sup>16</sup> I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.

<sup>17</sup> 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.

<sup>18</sup> But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

<sup>19</sup> "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet,

<sup>20</sup> and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.

<sup>21</sup> As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,

<sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

<sup>23</sup> "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces.

<sup>24</sup> As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.

<sup>25</sup> He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

<sup>26</sup> But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

<sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under

the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.'

<sup>28</sup> "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."

**8** <sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first.

<sup>2</sup> And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the capital, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal.

<sup>3</sup> I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.

<sup>4</sup> I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

<sup>5</sup> As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

<sup>6</sup> He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath.

<sup>7</sup> I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.

<sup>8</sup> Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

<sup>9</sup> Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land.

<sup>10</sup> It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them.

<sup>11</sup> It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown.

<sup>12</sup> And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will

throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper.

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?"

<sup>14</sup> And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

<sup>15</sup> When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.

<sup>16</sup> And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."

<sup>17</sup> So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end."

<sup>18</sup> And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up.

<sup>19</sup> He said, "Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end.

<sup>20</sup> As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.

<sup>21</sup> And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king.

<sup>22</sup> As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four

kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power.

<sup>23</sup> And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise.

<sup>24</sup> His power shall be great--but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints.

<sup>25</sup> By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken--but by no human hand.

<sup>26</sup> The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now."

<sup>27</sup> And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

**9**<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans--

<sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

<sup>3</sup> Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who

keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

<sup>5</sup> we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.

<sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

<sup>7</sup> To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you.

<sup>8</sup> To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our

fathers, because we have sinned against you.

<sup>9</sup> To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him

<sup>10</sup> and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

<sup>11</sup> All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him.

<sup>12</sup> He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice.

<sup>15</sup> And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

<sup>16</sup> "O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers,

Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us.

<sup>17</sup> Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate.

<sup>18</sup> O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

<sup>19</sup> O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."

<sup>20</sup> While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea

before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God,

<sup>21</sup> while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.

<sup>22</sup> He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding.

<sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

<sup>24</sup> "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

<sup>25</sup> Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.

<sup>26</sup> And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

<sup>27</sup> And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

**10** <sup>1</sup> In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

<sup>2</sup> In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks.

<sup>3</sup> I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.

<sup>4</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)

<sup>5</sup> I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like

the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

<sup>7</sup> And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.

<sup>8</sup> So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength.

<sup>9</sup> Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

<sup>10</sup> And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

<sup>11</sup> And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for

now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

<sup>13</sup> The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

<sup>14</sup> and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

<sup>15</sup> When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute.

<sup>16</sup> And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength.

<sup>17</sup> How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."

<sup>18</sup> Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me.

<sup>19</sup> And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

<sup>20</sup> Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and

when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come.

<sup>21</sup> But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

**11** <sup>1</sup> And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

<sup>2</sup> "And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece.

<sup>3</sup> Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills.

<sup>4</sup> And as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but

not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these.

<sup>5</sup> "Then the king of the south shall be strong, but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his authority shall be a great authority.

<sup>6</sup> After some years they shall make an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement. But she shall not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his arm shall not endure, but she shall be given up, and her attendants, he who fathered her, and he who supported her in those times.

<sup>7</sup> "And from a branch from her roots one shall arise in his place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail.

<sup>8</sup> He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold, and for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the north.

<sup>9</sup> Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land.

<sup>10</sup> "His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall keep coming and overflow and pass through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress.

<sup>11</sup> Then the king of the south, moved with rage, shall come out and fight with the king of the north. And he shall raise a great multitude, but it shall be given into his hand.

<sup>12</sup> And when the multitude is taken away, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail.

<sup>13</sup> For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies.

<sup>14</sup> "In those times many shall rise against the king of the south, and the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they shall fail.

<sup>15</sup> Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his best troops, for there shall be no strength to stand.

<sup>16</sup> But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand.

<sup>17</sup> He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of an agreement and perform them. He shall give him the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom, but it shall not stand or be to his advantage.

<sup>18</sup> Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands and shall capture many of them, but a commander shall put an end to his insolence. Indeed, he shall turn his insolence back upon him.

<sup>19</sup> Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

<sup>20</sup> "Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom. But within a few days he shall be broken, neither in anger nor in battle.

<sup>21</sup> In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

<sup>22</sup> Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant.

<sup>23</sup> And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people.

<sup>24</sup> Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time.

<sup>25</sup> And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south

shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him.

<sup>26</sup> Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.

<sup>27</sup> And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be at the time appointed.

<sup>28</sup> And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will and return to his own land.

<sup>29</sup> "At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before.

<sup>30</sup> For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant.

He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant.

<sup>31</sup> Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

<sup>32</sup> He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

<sup>33</sup> And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.

<sup>34</sup> When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery,

<sup>35</sup> and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the

end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

<sup>36</sup> "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.

<sup>37</sup> He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.

<sup>38</sup> He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.

<sup>39</sup> He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall

load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.

<sup>40</sup> "At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through.

<sup>41</sup> He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.

<sup>42</sup> He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

<sup>43</sup> He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train.

<sup>44</sup> But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction.

<sup>45</sup> And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

**12** <sup>1</sup> "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

<sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

<sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and

those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

<sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

<sup>5</sup> Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream.

<sup>6</sup> And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"

<sup>7</sup> And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy

people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

<sup>8</sup> I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"

<sup>9</sup> He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

<sup>10</sup> Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

<sup>11</sup> And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

<sup>13</sup> But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

# Hosea

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

<sup>3</sup> So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the

blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

<sup>6</sup> She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.

<sup>7</sup> But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

<sup>8</sup> When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

<sup>10</sup> Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or

numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

<sup>11</sup> And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Say to your brothers, "You are my people," and to your sisters, "You have received mercy."

<sup>2</sup> "Plead with your mother, plead-- for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband-- that she put away her whoring from her face, and her adultery from between her breasts;

<sup>3</sup> lest I strip her naked and make her as in the day she was born, and make her like a wilderness, and make her like a parched land, and kill her with thirst.

<sup>4</sup> Upon her children also I will have no mercy, because they are children of whoredom.

<sup>5</sup> For their mother has played the whore; she who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'

<sup>6</sup> Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her, so that she cannot find her paths.

<sup>7</sup> She shall pursue her lovers but not overtake them, and she shall seek them but shall not find them. Then she shall say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now.'

<sup>8</sup> And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore I will take back my grain in its time, and my wine in its season, and I will take away my wool and my flax, which were to cover her nakedness.

<sup>10</sup> Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall rescue her out of my hand.

<sup>11</sup> And I will put an end to all her mirth, her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths, and all her appointed feasts.

<sup>12</sup> And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees, of which she said, 'These are my wages, which my lovers have given me.' I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall devour them.

<sup>13</sup> And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals when she burned offerings to them and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry, and went after her lovers and forgot me, declares the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

<sup>15</sup> And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> "And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.'

<sup>17</sup> For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.

<sup>18</sup> And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.

<sup>19</sup> And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.

<sup>20</sup> I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> "And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth,

<sup>22</sup> and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel,

<sup>23</sup> and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.'"

**3**<sup>1</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even

as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins."

<sup>2</sup> So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.

<sup>3</sup> And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you."

<sup>4</sup> For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods.

<sup>5</sup> Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

**4** <sup>1</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the

land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;

<sup>2</sup> there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

<sup>4</sup> Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest.

<sup>5</sup> You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother.

<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have

forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

<sup>7</sup> The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame.

<sup>8</sup> They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity.

<sup>9</sup> And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.

<sup>10</sup> They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the LORD to cherish

<sup>11</sup> whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding.

<sup>12</sup> My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.

<sup>13</sup> They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your brides commit adultery.

<sup>14</sup> I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.

<sup>15</sup> Though you play the whore, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty. Enter not into Gilgal, nor go up to Beth-aven, and swear not, "As the LORD lives."

<sup>16</sup> Like a stubborn heifer, Israel is stubborn; can the LORD now feed them like a lamb in a broad pasture?

<sup>17</sup> Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone.

<sup>18</sup> When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring; their rulers dearly love shame.

<sup>19</sup> A wind has wrapped them in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Hear this, O priests! Pay attention, O house of Israel! Give ear, O house of the king! For the judgment is for you; for you have been a snare at Mizpah and a net spread upon Tabor.

<sup>2</sup> And the revolters have gone deep into slaughter, but I will discipline all of them.

<sup>3</sup> I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me; for now, O Ephraim, you have played the whore; Israel is defiled.

<sup>4</sup> Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt; Judah also shall stumble with them.

<sup>6</sup> With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them.

<sup>7</sup> They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD; for they have borne alien children. Now the new moon shall devour them with their fields.

<sup>8</sup> Blow the horn in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah. Sound the alarm at Beth-aven; we follow you, O Benjamin!

<sup>9</sup> Ephraim shall become a desolation in the day of punishment; among the tribes of Israel I make known what is sure.

<sup>10</sup> The princes of Judah have become like those who move the landmark; upon them I will pour out my wrath like water.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, because he was determined to go after filth.

<sup>12</sup> But I am like a moth to Ephraim, and like dry rot to the house of Judah.

<sup>13</sup> When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound.

<sup>14</sup> For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.

<sup>15</sup> I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.

**6** <sup>1</sup> "Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

<sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

<sup>3</sup> Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."

<sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light.

<sup>6</sup> For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

<sup>7</sup> But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

<sup>8</sup> Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood.

<sup>9</sup> As robbers lie in wait for a man, so the priests band together; they murder on the way to Shechem; they commit villainy.

<sup>10</sup> In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.

<sup>11</sup> For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed, when I restore the fortunes of my people.

**7** <sup>1</sup> When I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria; for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside.

<sup>2</sup> But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face.

<sup>3</sup> By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.

<sup>4</sup> They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.

<sup>5</sup> On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers.

<sup>6</sup> For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

<sup>7</sup> All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me.

<sup>8</sup> Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

<sup>9</sup> Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not.

<sup>10</sup> The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him, for all this.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

<sup>12</sup> As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation.

<sup>13</sup> Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me.

<sup>14</sup> They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.

<sup>15</sup> Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me.

<sup>16</sup> They return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Set the trumpet to your lips! One like a vulture is over the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law.

<sup>2</sup> To me they cry, My God, we--Israel--know you.

<sup>3</sup> Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him.

<sup>4</sup> They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.

<sup>5</sup> I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence?

<sup>6</sup> For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.

<sup>7</sup> For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.

<sup>8</sup> Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nations as a useless vessel.

<sup>9</sup> For they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey wandering alone; Ephraim has hired lovers.

<sup>10</sup> Though they hire allies among the nations, I will soon gather them up. And the king and princes shall soon writhe because of the tribute.

<sup>11</sup> Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, they have become to him altars for sinning.

<sup>12</sup> Were I to write for him my laws by the ten thousands, they would be regarded as a strange thing.

<sup>13</sup> As for my sacrificial offerings, they sacrifice meat and eat it, but the LORD does not accept them. Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities; so I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour her strongholds.

**9** <sup>1</sup> Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors.

<sup>2</sup> Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them.

<sup>3</sup> They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.

<sup>4</sup> They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the LORD, and their sacrifices shall not please him. It shall be like mourners' bread to them; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> What will you do on the day of the appointed festival, and on the day of the feast of the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> For behold, they are going away from destruction; but Egypt shall gather them; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.

<sup>7</sup> The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred.

<sup>8</sup> The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

<sup>9</sup> They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.

<sup>10</sup> Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But they came to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame, and became detestable like the thing they loved.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim's glory shall fly away like a bird-- no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!

<sup>12</sup> Even if they bring up children, I will bereave them till none is left. Woe to them when I depart from them!

<sup>13</sup> Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted in a meadow; but Ephraim must lead his children out to slaughter.

<sup>14</sup> Give them, O LORD-- what will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

<sup>15</sup> Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there I began to hate them. Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels.

<sup>16</sup> Ephraim is stricken; their root is dried up; they shall bear no fruit. Even though they give birth, I will put their beloved children to death.

<sup>17</sup> My God will reject them because they have not listened to him; they shall be wanderers among the nations.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars.

<sup>2</sup> Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.

<sup>3</sup> For now they will say: "We have no king, for we do not fear the LORD; and a king--what could he do for us?"

<sup>4</sup> They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

<sup>5</sup> The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Beth-aven. Its people mourn for it, and so do its idolatrous

priests-- those who rejoiced over it and over its glory-- for it has departed from them.

<sup>6</sup> The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria as tribute to the great king. Ephraim shall be put to shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol.

<sup>7</sup> Samaria's king shall perish like a twig on the face of the waters.

<sup>8</sup> The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us, and to the hills, Fall on us.

<sup>9</sup> From the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not the war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah?

<sup>10</sup> When I please, I will discipline them, and nations shall be gathered against them when they are bound up for their double iniquity.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim was a trained calf that loved to thresh, and I spared her fair neck; but I will put Ephraim to the yoke; Judah must plow; Jacob must harrow for himself.

<sup>12</sup> Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

<sup>13</sup> You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors,

<sup>14</sup> therefore the tumult of war shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be destroyed, as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle; mothers were dashed in pieces with their children.

<sup>15</sup> Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, because of your great evil. At dawn the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off.

**11** <sup>1</sup> When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

<sup>2</sup> The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

<sup>3</sup> Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

<sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

<sup>5</sup> They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me.

<sup>6</sup> The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates,

and devour them because of their own counsels.

<sup>7</sup> My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all.

<sup>8</sup> How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

<sup>9</sup> I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

<sup>10</sup> They shall go after the LORD; he will roar like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west;

<sup>11</sup> they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land

of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One.

**12** <sup>1</sup> Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds.

<sup>3</sup> In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God.

<sup>4</sup> He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us--

<sup>5</sup> the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is his memorial name:

<sup>6</sup> "So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God."

<sup>7</sup> A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress.

<sup>8</sup> Ephraim has said, "Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin."

<sup>9</sup> I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; I will again make you dwell in tents, as in the days of the appointed feast.

<sup>10</sup> I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables.

<sup>11</sup> If there is iniquity in Gilead, they shall surely come to nothing: in Gilgal they sacrifice bulls; their altars also are like stone heaps on the furrows of the field.

<sup>12</sup> Jacob fled to the land of Aram; there Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he guarded sheep.

<sup>13</sup> By a prophet the LORD brought Israel up from Egypt, and by a prophet he was guarded.

<sup>14</sup> Ephraim has given bitter provocation; so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him and will repay him for his disgraceful deeds.

**13** <sup>1</sup> When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling; he was exalted in Israel, but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.

<sup>2</sup> And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves metal images, idols skillfully made of their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. It is said of them, "Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!"

<sup>3</sup> Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes

early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.

<sup>4</sup> But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior.

<sup>5</sup> It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought;

<sup>6</sup> but when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me.

<sup>7</sup> So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk beside the way.

<sup>8</sup> I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.

<sup>9</sup> He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper.

<sup>10</sup> Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities? Where are all your

rulers-- those of whom you said, "Give me a king and princes"?

<sup>11</sup> I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath.

<sup>12</sup> The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store.

<sup>13</sup> The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb.

<sup>14</sup> Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

<sup>15</sup> Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing.

<sup>16</sup> Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

**14** <sup>1</sup> Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

<sup>2</sup> Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips.

<sup>3</sup> Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."

<sup>4</sup> I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.

<sup>5</sup> I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon.

<sup>7</sup> They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

<sup>8</sup> O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

# Joel

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

<sup>2</sup> Hear this, you elders; give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers?

<sup>3</sup> Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation.

<sup>4</sup> What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.

<sup>5</sup> Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.

<sup>6</sup> For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and beyond number; its teeth are lions' teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness.

<sup>7</sup> It has laid waste my vine and splintered my fig tree; it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down; their branches are made white.

<sup>8</sup> Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth.

<sup>9</sup> The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off from the house of the LORD. The priests mourn, the ministers of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> The fields are destroyed, the ground mourns, because the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up, the oil languishes.

<sup>11</sup> Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil; wail, O vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field has perished.

<sup>12</sup> The vine dries up; the fig tree languishes. Pomegranate, palm, and apple, all the trees of the field are dried up, and gladness dries up from the children of man.

<sup>13</sup> Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O ministers of the altar. Go in, pass the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God! Because grain offering and drink offering are withheld from the house of your God.

<sup>14</sup> Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

<sup>16</sup> Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

<sup>17</sup> The seed shrivels under the clods; the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are torn down because the grain has dried up.

<sup>18</sup> How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are perplexed because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer.

<sup>19</sup> To you, O LORD, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field.

<sup>20</sup> Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,  
<sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness

there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

<sup>3</sup> Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

<sup>4</sup> Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run.

<sup>5</sup> As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle.

<sup>6</sup> Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale.

<sup>7</sup> Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on

his way; they do not swerve from their paths.

<sup>8</sup> They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted.

<sup>9</sup> They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.

<sup>10</sup> The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

<sup>12</sup> "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

<sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup> gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

<sup>20</sup> "I will remove the northerner far from you, and drive him into a parched and desolate land, his vanguard into the eastern sea, and his rear guard into the western sea; the stench and foul smell of him will rise, for he has done great things.

<sup>21</sup> "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things!

<sup>22</sup> Fear not, you beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

<sup>23</sup> "Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before.

<sup>24</sup> "The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup> I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.

<sup>26</sup> "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>27</sup> You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And

my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>28</sup> "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

<sup>30</sup> "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

<sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and

among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

**3**<sup>1</sup> "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

<sup>2</sup> I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land,

<sup>3</sup> and have cast lots for my people, and have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it.

<sup>4</sup> "What are you to me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will return your payment on your own head swiftly and speedily.

<sup>5</sup> For you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried my rich treasures into your temples.

<sup>6</sup> You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their own border.

<sup>7</sup> Behold, I will stir them up from the place to which you have sold them, and I will return your payment on your own head.

<sup>8</sup> I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a nation far away, for the LORD has spoken."

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim this among the nations: Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up.

<sup>10</sup> Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, "I am a warrior."

<sup>11</sup> Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

<sup>13</sup> Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.

<sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

<sup>15</sup> The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.

<sup>17</sup> "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it.

<sup>18</sup> "And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.

<sup>19</sup> "Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a desolate wilderness, for the violence done to the people of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

<sup>20</sup> But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations.

<sup>21</sup> I will avenge their blood, blood I have not avenged, for the LORD dwells in Zion."

# Amos

**1** <sup>1</sup> The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

<sup>2</sup> And he said: "The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron.

<sup>4</sup> So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.

<sup>5</sup> I will break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir," says the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom.

<sup>7</sup> So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour her strongholds.

<sup>8</sup> I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn my hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish," says the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

<sup>10</sup> So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, and it shall devour her strongholds."

<sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity, and his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever.

<sup>12</sup> So I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah."

<sup>13</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the

punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border.

<sup>14</sup> So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour her strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind;

<sup>15</sup> and their king shall go into exile, he and his princes together," says the LORD.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom.

<sup>2</sup> So I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth, and Moab shall die amid uproar, amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;

<sup>3</sup> I will cut off the ruler from its midst, and will kill all its princes with him," says the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the LORD, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked.

<sup>5</sup> So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem."

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals--

<sup>7</sup> those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned;

<sup>8</sup> they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge,

and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined.

<sup>9</sup> "Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.

<sup>10</sup> Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

<sup>11</sup> And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?" declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> "But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'

<sup>13</sup> "Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down.

<sup>14</sup> Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life;

<sup>15</sup> he who handles the bow shall not stand, and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself, nor shall he who rides the horse save his life;

<sup>16</sup> and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day," declares the LORD.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

<sup>2</sup> "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

<sup>3</sup> "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?

<sup>4</sup> Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing?

<sup>5</sup> Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it? Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing?

<sup>6</sup> Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?

<sup>7</sup> "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

<sup>8</sup> The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt, and say, "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria, and see the great tumults within her, and the oppressed in her midst."

<sup>10</sup> "They do not know how to do right," declares the LORD, "those who

store up violence and robbery in their strongholds."

<sup>11</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered."

<sup>12</sup> Thus says the LORD: "As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part of a bed.

<sup>13</sup> "Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob," declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

<sup>14</sup> "that on the day I punish Israel for his transgressions, I will punish the altars of Bethel, and the horns of the altar shall be cut off and fall to the ground.

<sup>15</sup> I will strike the winter house along with the summer house, and the houses

of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall come to an end," declares the LORD.

**4**<sup>1</sup> "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!'

<sup>2</sup> The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.

<sup>3</sup> And you shall go out through the breaches, each one straight ahead; and you shall be cast out into Harmon," declares the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> "Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days;

<sup>5</sup> offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!" declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>6</sup> "I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> "I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither;

<sup>8</sup> so two or three cities would wander to another city to drink water, and would not be satisfied; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "I struck you with blight and mildew; your many gardens and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the

locust devoured; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> "I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, and carried away your horses, and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> "I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

<sup>13</sup> For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and

treads on the heights of the earth-- the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

**5**<sup>1</sup> Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> "Fallen, no more to rise, is the virgin Israel; forsaken on her land, with none to raise her up."

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD: "The city that went out a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which went out a hundred shall have ten left to the house of Israel."

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live;

<sup>5</sup> but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing."

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and

it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,

<sup>7</sup> O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!

<sup>8</sup> He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name;

<sup>9</sup> who makes destruction flash forth against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

<sup>10</sup> They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup> For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins-- you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup> Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said.

<sup>15</sup> Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord: "In all the squares there shall be wailing, and in all the streets they shall say, 'Alas! Alas!' They shall call the farmers to mourning

and to wailing those who are skilled in lamentation,

<sup>17</sup> and in all vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through your midst," says the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light,

<sup>19</sup> as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

<sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup> "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings

of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

<sup>25</sup> "Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?

<sup>26</sup> You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your star-god--your images that you made for yourselves,

<sup>27</sup> and I will send you into exile beyond Damascus," says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.

**6** <sup>1</sup> "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!

<sup>2</sup> Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory,

<sup>3</sup> O you who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence?

<sup>4</sup> "Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall,

<sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,

<sup>6</sup> who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the

revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away."

<sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."

<sup>9</sup> And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die.

<sup>10</sup> And when one's relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, "Is there still anyone with you?" he shall say, "No"; and he shall say, "Silence! We must not mention the name of the LORD."

<sup>11</sup> For behold, the LORD commands, and the great house shall be struck down into fragments, and the little house into bits.

<sup>12</sup> Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood--

<sup>13</sup> you who rejoice in Lo-debar, who say, "Have we not by our own strength captured Karnaim for ourselves?"

<sup>14</sup> "For behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel," declares the LORD, the God of hosts; "and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of the Arabah."

**7** <sup>1</sup> This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.

<sup>2</sup> When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said, "O Lord GOD, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!"

<sup>3</sup> The LORD relented concerning this; "It shall not be," said the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, the Lord GOD was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land.

<sup>5</sup> Then I said, "O Lord GOD, please cease! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!"

<sup>6</sup> The LORD relented concerning this; "This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

<sup>7</sup> This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them;

<sup>9</sup> the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words.

<sup>11</sup> For thus Amos has said, "'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

<sup>12</sup> And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there,

<sup>13</sup> but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.

<sup>15</sup> But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

<sup>16</sup> Now therefore hear the word of the LORD. "You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

<sup>17</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD: "'Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.'"

**8** <sup>1</sup> This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit.

<sup>2</sup> And he said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The

end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them.

<sup>3</sup> The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day," declares the Lord GOD. "So many dead bodies!" "They are thrown everywhere!" "Silence!"

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end,

<sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances,

<sup>6</sup> that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

<sup>8</sup> Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?"

<sup>9</sup> "And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.

<sup>10</sup> I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

<sup>11</sup> "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land-- not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to

and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

<sup>13</sup> "In that day the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst.

<sup>14</sup> Those who swear by the Guilt of Samaria, and say, 'As your god lives, O Dan,' and, 'As the Way of Beersheba lives,' they shall fall, and never rise again."

**9** <sup>1</sup> I saw the LORD standing beside the altar, and he said: "Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake, and shatter them on the heads of all the people; and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword; not one of them shall flee away; not one of them shall escape.

<sup>2</sup> "If they dig into Sheol, from there shall my hand take them; if they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down.

<sup>3</sup> If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I will search them

out and take them; and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them.

<sup>4</sup> And if they go into captivity before their enemies, there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them; and I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good."

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;

<sup>6</sup> who builds his upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth-- the LORD is his name.

<sup>7</sup> "Are you not like the Cushites to me, O people of Israel?" declares the LORD. "Did I not bring up Israel from the land of

Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?

<sup>8</sup> Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "For behold, I will command, and shake the house of Israel among all the nations as one shakes with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall to the earth.

<sup>10</sup> All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, 'Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.'

<sup>11</sup> "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old,

<sup>12</sup> that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are

called by my name," declares the LORD who does this.

<sup>13</sup> "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

<sup>14</sup> I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

<sup>15</sup> I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

# Obadiah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom: We have heard a report from the LORD, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!"

<sup>2</sup> Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.

<sup>3</sup> The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me down to the ground?"

<sup>4</sup> Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> If thieves came to you, if plunderers came by night-- how you have been destroyed!-- would they not steal only enough for themselves? If grape gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings?

<sup>6</sup> How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures sought out!

<sup>7</sup> All your allies have driven you to your border; those at peace with you have deceived you; they have prevailed against you; those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you-- you have no understanding.

<sup>8</sup> Will I not on that day, declares the LORD, destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau?

<sup>9</sup> And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman, so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

<sup>10</sup> Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.

<sup>11</sup> On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them.

<sup>12</sup> But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress.

<sup>13</sup> Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity.

<sup>14</sup> Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress.

<sup>15</sup> For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

<sup>16</sup> For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been.

<sup>17</sup> But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape, and it shall be holy, and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions.

<sup>18</sup> The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>19</sup> Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines;

they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

<sup>20</sup> The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negeb.

<sup>21</sup> Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

# Jonah

**1** <sup>1</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me."

<sup>3</sup> But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.

<sup>5</sup> Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship

into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.

<sup>6</sup> So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

<sup>7</sup> And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

<sup>8</sup> Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

<sup>9</sup> And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

<sup>10</sup> Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

<sup>11</sup> Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.

<sup>12</sup> He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you."

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent

blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you."

<sup>15</sup> So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

<sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

<sup>17</sup> And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,

<sup>2</sup> saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup> For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

<sup>4</sup> Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; Yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'

<sup>5</sup> The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head

<sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

<sup>7</sup> When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup> Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you."

<sup>3</sup> So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth.

<sup>4</sup> Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

<sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

<sup>6</sup> The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

<sup>7</sup> And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let

neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water,

<sup>8</sup> but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

<sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

**4** <sup>1</sup> But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.

<sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I

knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup> Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.

<sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.

<sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die."

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night.

<sup>11</sup> And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

# Micah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

<sup>3</sup> For behold, the LORD is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.

<sup>4</sup> And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place.

<sup>5</sup> All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?

<sup>6</sup> Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country, a place for planting vineyards, and I will pour down her stones into the valley and uncover her foundations.

<sup>7</sup> All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, all her wages shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste, for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them, and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return.

<sup>8</sup> For this I will lament and wail; I will go stripped and naked; I will make lamentation like the jackals, and mourning like the ostriches.

<sup>9</sup> For her wound is incurable, and it has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> Tell it not in Gath; weep not at all; in Beth-le-aphrah roll yourselves in the dust.

<sup>11</sup> Pass on your way, inhabitants of Shaphir, in nakedness and shame; the inhabitants of Zaanan do not come out; the lamentation of Beth-ezel shall take away from you its standing place.

<sup>12</sup> For the inhabitants of Maroth wait anxiously for good, because disaster has come down from the LORD to the gate of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> Harness the steeds to the chariots, inhabitants of Lachish; it was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion, for in you were found the transgressions of Israel.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore you shall give parting gifts to Moresheth-gath; the houses of Achzib

shall be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> I will again bring a conqueror to you, inhabitants of Mareshah; the glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.

<sup>16</sup> Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair, for the children of your delight; make yourselves as bald as the eagle, for they shall go from you into exile.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand.

<sup>2</sup> They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD: behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your

necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster.

<sup>4</sup> In that day they shall take up a taunt song against you and moan bitterly, and say, "We are utterly ruined; he changes the portion of my people; how he removes it from me! To an apostate he allots our fields."

<sup>5</sup> Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> "Do not preach"--thus they preach--"one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us."

<sup>7</sup> Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?

<sup>8</sup> But lately my people have risen up as an enemy; you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war.

<sup>9</sup> The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever.

<sup>10</sup> Arise and go, for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction.

<sup>11</sup> If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink," he would be the preacher for this people!

<sup>12</sup> I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men.

<sup>13</sup> He who opens the breach goes up before them; they break through and pass the gate, going out by it. Their king passes on before them, the LORD at their head.

**3** <sup>1</sup> And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice?--

<sup>2</sup> you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people and their flesh from off their bones,

<sup>3</sup> who eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron.

<sup>4</sup> Then they will cry to the LORD, but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time, because they have made their deeds evil.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them;

<sup>7</sup> the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.

<sup>8</sup> But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

<sup>9</sup> Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight,

<sup>10</sup> who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity.

<sup>11</sup> Its heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they

lean on the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us."

<sup>12</sup> Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

**4** <sup>1</sup> It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it,

<sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations afar

off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore;

<sup>4</sup> but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

<sup>5</sup> For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted;

<sup>7</sup> and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore.

<sup>8</sup> And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.

<sup>9</sup> Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in you? Has your counselor perished, that pain seized you like a woman in labor?

<sup>10</sup> Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon. There you shall be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.

<sup>11</sup> Now many nations are assembled against you, saying, "Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion."

<sup>12</sup> But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.

<sup>13</sup> Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion, for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples; and shall devote their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his

God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

<sup>6</sup> they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and treads within our border.

<sup>7</sup> Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which delay not for a man nor wait for the children of man.

<sup>8</sup> And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among

the flocks of sheep, which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver.

<sup>9</sup> Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries, and all your enemies shall be cut off.

<sup>10</sup> And in that day, declares the LORD, I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your chariots;

<sup>11</sup> and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds;

<sup>12</sup> and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes;

<sup>13</sup> and I will cut off your carved images and your pillars from among you, and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands;

<sup>14</sup> and I will root out your Asherah images from among you and destroy your cities.

<sup>15</sup> And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:  
Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what

happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup> "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD cries to the city-- and it is sound wisdom to fear your name: "Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it!

<sup>10</sup> Can I forget any longer the treasures of wickedness in the house of the

wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed?

<sup>11</sup> Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights?

<sup>12</sup> Your rich men are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I strike you with a grievous blow, making you desolate because of your sins.

<sup>14</sup> You shall eat, but not be satisfied, and there shall be hunger within you; you shall put away, but not preserve, and what you preserve I will give to the sword.

<sup>15</sup> You shall sow, but not reap; you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.

<sup>16</sup> For you have kept the statutes of Omri, and all the works of the house

of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people."

**7**<sup>1</sup> Woe is me! For I have become as when the summer fruit has been gathered, as when the grapes have been gleaned: there is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig that my soul desires.

<sup>2</sup> The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net.

<sup>3</sup> Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; thus they weave it together.

<sup>4</sup> The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen, of your

punishment, has come; now their confusion is at hand.

<sup>5</sup> Put no trust in a neighbor; have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms;

<sup>6</sup> for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

<sup>7</sup> But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

<sup>8</sup> Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.

<sup>9</sup> I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me

out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication.

<sup>10</sup> Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look upon her; now she will be trampled down like the mire of the streets.

<sup>11</sup> A day for the building of your walls! In that day the boundary shall be far extended.

<sup>12</sup> In that day they will come to you, from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, and from Egypt to the River, from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.

<sup>13</sup> But the earth will be desolate because of its inhabitants, for the fruit of their deeds.

<sup>14</sup> Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old.

<sup>15</sup> As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them marvelous things.

<sup>16</sup> The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay their hands on their mouths; their ears shall be deaf;

<sup>17</sup> they shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the LORD our God, and they shall be in fear of you.

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

<sup>20</sup> You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

# Nahum

**1** <sup>1</sup> An oracle concerning Nineveh.  
The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

<sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it.

<sup>6</sup> Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

<sup>8</sup> But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

<sup>9</sup> What do you plot against the LORD? He will make a complete end; trouble will not rise up a second time.

<sup>10</sup> For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

<sup>11</sup> From you came one who plotted evil against the LORD, a worthless counselor.

<sup>12</sup> Thus says the LORD, "Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.

<sup>13</sup> And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD has given commandment about you: "No more shall your name be perpetuated; from the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the metal image. I will make your grave, for you are vile."

<sup>15</sup> Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.

**2** <sup>1</sup> The scatterer has come up against you. Man the ramparts; watch the

road; dress for battle; collect all your strength.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob as the majesty of Israel, for plunderers have plundered them and ruined their branches.

<sup>3</sup> The shield of his mighty men is red; his soldiers are clothed in scarlet. The chariots come with flashing metal on the day he musters them; the cypress spears are brandished.

<sup>4</sup> The chariots race madly through the streets; they rush to and fro through the squares; they gleam like torches; they dart like lightning.

<sup>5</sup> He remembers his officers; they stumble as they go, they hasten to the wall; the siege tower is set up.

<sup>6</sup> The river gates are opened; the palace melts away;

<sup>7</sup> its mistress is stripped; she is carried off, her slave girls lamenting, moaning like doves and beating their breasts.

<sup>8</sup> Nineveh is like a pool whose waters run away. "Halt! Halt!" they cry, but none turns back.

<sup>9</sup> Plunder the silver, plunder the gold! There is no end of the treasure or of the wealth of all precious things.

<sup>10</sup> Desolate! Desolation and ruin! Hearts melt and knees tremble; anguish is in all loins; all faces grow pale!

<sup>11</sup> Where is the lions' den, the feeding place of the young lions, where the lion and lioness went, where his cubs were, with none to disturb?

<sup>12</sup> The lion tore enough for his cubs and strangled prey for his lionesses; he filled his caves with prey and his dens with torn flesh.

<sup>13</sup> Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will burn your

chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions. I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall no longer be heard.

**3**<sup>1</sup> Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder-- no end to the prey!

<sup>2</sup> The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel, galloping horse and bounding chariot!

<sup>3</sup> Horsemen charging, flashing sword and glittering spear, hosts of slain, heaps of corpses, dead bodies without end-- they stumble over the bodies!

<sup>4</sup> And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute, graceful and of deadly charms, who betrays nations with her whorings, and peoples with her charms.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations

look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame.

<sup>6</sup> I will throw filth at you and treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle.

<sup>7</sup> And all who look at you will shrink from you and say, Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her? Where shall I seek comforters for you?

<sup>8</sup> Are you better than Thebes that sat by the Nile, with water around her, her rampart a sea, and water her wall?

<sup>9</sup> Cush was her strength; Egypt too, and that without limit; Put and the Libyans were her helpers.

<sup>10</sup> Yet she became an exile; she went into captivity; her infants were dashed in pieces at the head of every street; for her honored men lots were cast, and all her great men were bound in chains.

<sup>11</sup> You also will be drunken; you will go into hiding; you will seek a refuge from the enemy.

<sup>12</sup> All your fortresses are like fig trees with first-ripe figs-- if shaken they fall into the mouth of the eater.

<sup>13</sup> Behold, your troops are women in your midst. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has devoured your bars.

<sup>14</sup> Draw water for the siege; strengthen your forts; go into the clay; tread the mortar; take hold of the brick mold!

<sup>15</sup> There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the locust. Multiply yourselves like the locust; multiply like the grasshopper!

<sup>16</sup> You increased your merchants more than the stars of the heavens. The locust spreads its wings and flies away.

<sup>17</sup> Your princes are like grasshoppers, your scribes like clouds of locusts settling

on the fences in a day of cold-- when the sun rises, they fly away; no one knows where they are.

<sup>18</sup> Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria; your nobles slumber. Your people are scattered on the mountains with none to gather them.

<sup>19</sup> There is no easing your hurt; your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?

# Habakkuk

**1** <sup>1</sup> The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

<sup>2</sup> O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup> Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

<sup>4</sup> So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

<sup>5</sup> "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

<sup>6</sup> For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own.

<sup>7</sup> They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.

<sup>8</sup> Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

<sup>9</sup> They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand.

<sup>10</sup> At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it.

<sup>11</sup> Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

<sup>12</sup> Are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.

<sup>13</sup> You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and are silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

<sup>14</sup> You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler.

<sup>15</sup> He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich.

<sup>17</sup> Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever?

**2** <sup>1</sup> I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup> And the LORD answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.

<sup>3</sup> For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end--it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup> "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

<sup>5</sup> "Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself

all nations and collects as his own all peoples."

<sup>6</sup> Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, "Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own-- for how long?-- and loads himself with pledges!"

<sup>7</sup> Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them.

<sup>8</sup> Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

<sup>9</sup> "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm!

<sup>10</sup> You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life.

<sup>11</sup> For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.

<sup>12</sup> "Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!

<sup>13</sup> Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing?

<sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>15</sup> "Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink-- you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!

<sup>16</sup> You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the LORD's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory!

<sup>17</sup> The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

<sup>18</sup> "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!

<sup>19</sup> Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

<sup>20</sup> But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

**3**<sup>1</sup> A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

<sup>2</sup> O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the

midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

<sup>3</sup> God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power.

<sup>5</sup> Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels.

<sup>6</sup> He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways.

<sup>7</sup> I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

<sup>8</sup> Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD? Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the

sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation?

<sup>9</sup> You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. Selah. You split the earth with rivers.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains saw you and writhed; the raging waters swept on; the deep gave forth its voice; it lifted its hands on high.

<sup>11</sup> The sun and moon stood still in their place at the light of your arrows as they sped, at the flash of your glittering spear.

<sup>12</sup> You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger.

<sup>13</sup> You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah.

<sup>14</sup> You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a

whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.

<sup>15</sup> You trampled the sea with your horses, the surging of mighty waters.

<sup>16</sup> I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,

<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

<sup>19</sup> GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

# Zephaniah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> "I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> "I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name

of the idolatrous priests along with the priests,

<sup>5</sup> those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom,

<sup>6</sup> those who have turned back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of him."

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

<sup>8</sup> And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice-- "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

<sup>9</sup> On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

<sup>10</sup> "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.

<sup>11</sup> Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

<sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

<sup>13</sup> Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup> A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

<sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup> I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation,

<sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect --before the day passes away like chaff-- before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> For Gaza shall be deserted, and Ashkelon shall become a desolation; Ashdod's people shall be driven out at noon, and Ekron shall be uprooted.

<sup>5</sup> Woe to you inhabitants of the seacoast, you nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will destroy you until no inhabitant is left.

<sup>6</sup> And you, O seacoast, shall be pastures, with meadows for shepherds and folds for flocks.

<sup>7</sup> The seacoast shall become the possession of the remnant of the house of Judah, on which they shall graze, and in the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the LORD their God will be mindful of them and restore their fortunes.

<sup>8</sup> "I have heard the taunts of Moab and the revilings of the Ammonites, how they have taunted my people and made boasts against their territory.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Moab shall become like Sodom, and the Ammonites like Gomorrah, a land possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a waste forever. The remnant of my people shall plunder them, and the survivors of my nation shall possess them."

<sup>10</sup> This shall be their lot in return for their pride, because they taunted and

boasted against the people of the LORD of hosts.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will be awesome against them; for he will famish all the gods of the earth, and to him shall bow down, each in its place, all the lands of the nations.

<sup>12</sup> You also, O Cushites, shall be slain by my sword.

<sup>13</sup> And he will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, and he will make Nineveh a desolation, a dry waste like the desert.

<sup>14</sup> Herds shall lie down in her midst, all kinds of beasts; even the owl and the hedgehog shall lodge in her capitals; a voice shall hoot in the window; devastation will be on the threshold; for her cedar work will be laid bare.

<sup>15</sup> This is the exultant city that lived securely, that said in her heart, "I am, and there is no one else." What a

desolation she has become, a lair for wild beasts! Everyone who passes by her hisses and shakes his fist.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city!

<sup>2</sup> She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God.

<sup>3</sup> Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning.

<sup>4</sup> Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame.

<sup>6</sup> "I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid

waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant.

<sup>7</sup> I said, 'Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.' But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt.

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed.

<sup>9</sup> "For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord.

<sup>10</sup> From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.

<sup>11</sup> "On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain.

<sup>12</sup> But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD,

<sup>13</sup> those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup> I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

# Haggai

**1** <sup>1</sup> In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD."

<sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet,

<sup>4</sup> "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"

<sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways.

<sup>6</sup> You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

<sup>7</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways.

<sup>8</sup> Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce.

<sup>11</sup> And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."

<sup>12</sup> Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, "I am with you, declares the LORD."

<sup>14</sup> And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked

on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

<sup>15</sup> on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

**2** <sup>1</sup> In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet,

<sup>2</sup> "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say,

<sup>3</sup> "Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?

<sup>4</sup> Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,

declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts,

<sup>5</sup> according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.

<sup>6</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.

<sup>7</sup> And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>8</sup> The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts.

<sup>9</sup> The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.'"

<sup>10</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the

word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet,

<sup>11</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Ask the priests about the law:

<sup>12</sup> 'If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?'" The priests answered and said, "No."

<sup>13</sup> Then Haggai said, "If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?" The priests answered and said, "It does become unclean."

<sup>14</sup> Then Haggai answered and said, "So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, declares the LORD, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean.

<sup>15</sup> Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the LORD,

<sup>16</sup> how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty.

<sup>17</sup> I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid, consider:

<sup>19</sup> Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you."

<sup>20</sup> The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month,

<sup>21</sup> "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth,

<sup>22</sup> and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother.

<sup>23</sup> On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts."

# Zechariah

**1** <sup>1</sup> In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "The LORD was very angry with your fathers.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup> Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

<sup>6</sup> But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us."

<sup>7</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying,

<sup>8</sup> "I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses.

<sup>9</sup> Then I said, 'What are these, my lord?' The angel who talked with me said to me, 'I will show you what they are.'

<sup>10</sup> So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, 'These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.'

<sup>11</sup> And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, 'We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.'

<sup>12</sup> Then the angel of the LORD said, 'O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?'

<sup>13</sup> And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

<sup>14</sup> So the angel who talked with me said to me, 'Cry out, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion.'

<sup>15</sup> And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.

<sup>17</sup> Cry out again, Thus says the LORD of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem."

<sup>18</sup> And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns!

<sup>19</sup> And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" And he said to me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.

<sup>21</sup> And I said, "What are these coming to do?" He said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one raised his head. And these have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it."

**2** <sup>1</sup> And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand!

<sup>2</sup> Then I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length."

<sup>3</sup> And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him

<sup>4</sup> and said to him, "Run, say to that young man, 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it.

<sup>5</sup> And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst."

<sup>6</sup> Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.

<sup>8</sup> For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:

<sup>9</sup> "Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me.

<sup>10</sup> Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

<sup>12</sup> And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem."

<sup>13</sup> Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

<sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?"

<sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments.

<sup>4</sup> And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments."

<sup>5</sup> And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

<sup>6</sup> And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua,

<sup>7</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.

<sup>8</sup> Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you,

for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch.

<sup>9</sup> For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.

<sup>10</sup> In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

**4** <sup>1</sup> And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep.

<sup>2</sup> And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it.

<sup>3</sup> And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

<sup>4</sup> And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord."

<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>7</sup> Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>9</sup> "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands

shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

<sup>10</sup> For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth."

<sup>11</sup> Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?"

<sup>12</sup> And a second time I answered and said to him, "What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?"

<sup>13</sup> He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord."

<sup>14</sup> Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

**5** <sup>1</sup> Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll!

<sup>2</sup> And he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits."

<sup>3</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side.

<sup>4</sup> I will send it out, declares the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones."

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said to me, "Lift your

eyes and see what this is that is going out."

<sup>6</sup> And I said, "What is it?" He said, "This is the basket that is going out." And he said, "This is their iniquity in all the land."

<sup>7</sup> And behold, the leaden cover was lifted, and there was a woman sitting in the basket!

<sup>8</sup> And he said, "This is Wickedness." And he thrust her back into the basket, and thrust down the leaden weight on its opening.

<sup>9</sup> Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.

<sup>10</sup> Then I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they taking the basket?"

<sup>11</sup> He said to me, "To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it. And when this is prepared, they will set the basket down there on its base."

**6** <sup>1</sup> Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze.

<sup>2</sup> The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses,

<sup>3</sup> the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses--all of them strong.

<sup>4</sup> Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"

<sup>5</sup> And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the LORD of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country."

<sup>7</sup> When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth.

<sup>8</sup> Then he cried to me, "Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country."

<sup>9</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>10</sup> "Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah.

<sup>11</sup> Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

<sup>12</sup> And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'"

<sup>14</sup> And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

<sup>15</sup> "And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

**7**<sup>1</sup> In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Chislev.

<sup>2</sup> Now the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-melech and their men to entreat the favor of the LORD,

<sup>3</sup> saying to the priests of the house of the LORD of hosts and the prophets, "Should I weep and abstain in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?"

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me:

<sup>5</sup> "Say to all the people of the land and the priests, When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted?

<sup>6</sup> And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves?"

<sup>7</sup> Were not these the words that the LORD proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and prosperous, with her cities around her, and the South and the lowland were inhabited?"

<sup>8</sup> And the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying,

<sup>9</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another,

<sup>10</sup> do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."

<sup>11</sup> But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear.

<sup>12</sup> They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former

prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of hosts.

<sup>13</sup> "As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the LORD of hosts,

<sup>14</sup> "and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate."

**8** <sup>1</sup> And the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain.

<sup>4</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age.

<sup>5</sup> And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the LORD of hosts?

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country,

<sup>8</sup> and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness."

<sup>9</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were

present on the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.

<sup>10</sup> For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for beast, neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in, for I set every man against his neighbor.

<sup>11</sup> But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the LORD of hosts.

<sup>12</sup> For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

<sup>13</sup> And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong."

<sup>14</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts,

<sup>15</sup> so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not.

<sup>16</sup> These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace;

<sup>17</sup> do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the LORD."

<sup>18</sup> And the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying,

<sup>19</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and

gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.

<sup>20</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities.

<sup>21</sup> The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, 'Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.'

<sup>22</sup> Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

**9** <sup>1</sup> The burden of the word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach and Damascus is its resting place. For

the LORD has an eye on mankind and on all the tribes of Israel,

<sup>2</sup> and on Hamath also, which borders on it, Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise.

<sup>3</sup> Tyre has built herself a rampart and heaped up silver like dust, and fine gold like the mud of the streets.

<sup>4</sup> But behold, the Lord will strip her of her possessions and strike down her power on the sea, and she shall be devoured by fire.

<sup>5</sup> Ashkelon shall see it, and be afraid; Gaza too, and shall writhe in anguish; Ekron also, because its hopes are confounded. The king shall perish from Gaza; Ashkelon shall be uninhabited;

<sup>6</sup> a mixed people shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of Philistia.

<sup>7</sup> I will take away its blood from its mouth, and its abominations from between its teeth; it too shall be a

remnant for our God; it shall be like a clan in Judah, and Ekron shall be like the Jebusites.

<sup>8</sup> Then I will encamp at my house as a guard, so that none shall march to and fro; no oppressor shall again march over them, for now I see with my own eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

<sup>13</sup> For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar.

<sup>16</sup> On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people;

for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land.

<sup>17</sup> For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field.

<sup>2</sup> For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.

<sup>3</sup> "My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle.

<sup>4</sup> From him shall come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler--all of them together.

<sup>5</sup> They shall be like mighty men in battle, trampling the foe in the mud of the streets; they shall fight because the LORD is with them, and they shall put to shame the riders on horses.

<sup>6</sup> "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them.

<sup>7</sup> Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine. Their children shall see it and be glad; their hearts shall rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> "I will whistle for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them, and they shall be as many as they were before.

<sup>9</sup> Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and with their children they shall live and return.

<sup>10</sup> I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them.

<sup>11</sup> He shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart.

<sup>12</sup> I will make them strong in the LORD, and they shall walk in his name," declares the LORD.

**11** <sup>1</sup> Open your doors, O Lebanon,  
that the fire may devour your  
cedars!

<sup>2</sup> Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has  
fallen, for the glorious trees are ruined!  
Wail, oaks of Bashan, for the thick forest  
has been felled!

<sup>3</sup> The sound of the wail of the  
shepherds, for their glory is ruined! The  
sound of the roar of the lions, for the  
thicket of the Jordan is ruined!

<sup>4</sup> Thus said the LORD my God: "Become  
shepherd of the flock doomed to  
slaughter.

<sup>5</sup> Those who buy them slaughter them  
and go unpunished, and those who sell  
them say, 'Blessed be the LORD, I have  
become rich,' and their own shepherds  
have no pity on them.

<sup>6</sup> For I will no longer have pity on the  
inhabitants of this land, declares the  
LORD. Behold, I will cause each of them

to fall into the hand of his neighbor, and each into the hand of his king, and they shall crush the land, and I will deliver none from their hand."

<sup>7</sup> So I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to be slaughtered by the sheep traders. And I took two staffs, one I named Favor, the other I named Union. And I tended the sheep.

<sup>8</sup> In one month I destroyed the three shepherds. But I became impatient with them, and they also detested me.

<sup>9</sup> So I said, "I will not be your shepherd. What is to die, let it die. What is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed. And let those who are left devour the flesh of one another."

<sup>10</sup> And I took my staff Favor, and I broke it, annulling the covenant that I had made with all the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> So it was annulled on that day, and the sheep traders, who were watching

me, knew that it was the word of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver.

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

<sup>14</sup> Then I broke my second staff Union, annulling the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Take once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd.

<sup>16</sup> For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy,

but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs.

<sup>17</sup> "Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!"

**12** <sup>1</sup> The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him:

<sup>2</sup> "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah.

<sup>3</sup> On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

<sup>4</sup> On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

<sup>5</sup> Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.'

<sup>6</sup> "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup> "And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah.

<sup>8</sup> On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them.

<sup>9</sup> And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

<sup>11</sup> On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

<sup>12</sup> The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;

<sup>13</sup> the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves;

<sup>14</sup> and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.

**13** <sup>1</sup> "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

<sup>2</sup> "And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness.

<sup>3</sup> And if anyone again prophesies, his father and mother who bore him will say to him, 'You shall not live, for you speak lies in the name of the LORD.' And his father and mother who bore him shall pierce him through when he prophesies.

<sup>4</sup> "On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies. He will not put on a hairy cloak in order to deceive,

<sup>5</sup> but he will say, 'I am no prophet, I am a worker of the soil, for a man sold me in my youth.'

<sup>6</sup> And if one asks him, 'What are these wounds on your back?' he will say, 'The wounds I received in the house of my friends.'

<sup>7</sup> "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will

be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

<sup>8</sup> In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.

<sup>9</sup> And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

**14** <sup>1</sup> Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst.

<sup>2</sup> For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

<sup>4</sup> On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

<sup>5</sup> And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

<sup>6</sup> On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost.

<sup>7</sup> And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor

night, but at evening time there shall be light.

<sup>8</sup> On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

<sup>10</sup> The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses.

<sup>11</sup> And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

<sup>12</sup> And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

<sup>13</sup> And on that day a great panic from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other.

<sup>14</sup> Even Judah will fight against Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance.

<sup>15</sup> And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps.

<sup>16</sup> Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.

<sup>17</sup> And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

<sup>18</sup> And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

<sup>19</sup> This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

<sup>20</sup> And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the

house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar.

<sup>21</sup> And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

# Malachi

**1** <sup>1</sup> The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

<sup>2</sup> "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob

<sup>3</sup> but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."

<sup>4</sup> If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.'"

<sup>5</sup> Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!"

<sup>6</sup> "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?'

<sup>7</sup> By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the LORD's table may be despised.

<sup>8</sup> When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>9</sup> And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>10</sup> Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.

<sup>11</sup> For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>12</sup> But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised.

<sup>13</sup> But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.

**2**<sup>1</sup> "And now, O priests, this command is for you.

<sup>2</sup> If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.

<sup>3</sup> Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it.

<sup>4</sup> So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>5</sup> My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.

<sup>6</sup> True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.

<sup>7</sup> For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

<sup>8</sup> But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts,

<sup>9</sup> and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction."

<sup>10</sup> Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

<sup>11</sup> Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

<sup>12</sup> May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob, any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

<sup>13</sup> And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

<sup>14</sup> But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom

you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

<sup>15</sup> Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

<sup>16</sup> "For the man who hates and divorces, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

<sup>17</sup> You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

**3** <sup>1</sup> "Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before

me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

<sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against

those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup> "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

<sup>7</sup> From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

<sup>8</sup> Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions.

<sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

<sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the

test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

<sup>11</sup> I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>12</sup> Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>13</sup> "Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?'

<sup>14</sup> You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?'

<sup>15</sup> And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evil-doers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'"

<sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

<sup>17</sup> "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

<sup>18</sup> Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

**4** <sup>1</sup> "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

<sup>2</sup> But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

<sup>3</sup> And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup> "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup> "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

<sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

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