

# **Holman Christian Standard Bible**

Old Testament  
(Psalms – Malachi)

# Psalms

**1** <sup>1</sup> How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path of sinners, or join a group of mockers!

<sup>2</sup> Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not survive the judgment, and sinners will not be in the community of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

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

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and His Anointed One:

<sup>3</sup> "Let us tear off their chains and free ourselves from their restraints."

<sup>4</sup> The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them.

<sup>5</sup> Then He speaks to them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath:

<sup>6</sup> "I have consecrated My King on Zion, My holy mountain."

<sup>7</sup> I will declare the LORD's decree: He said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have become Your Father.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance and the ends of the earth Your possession.

<sup>9</sup> You will break them with a rod of iron;  
You will shatter them like pottery."

<sup>10</sup> So now, kings, be wise; receive  
instruction, you judges of the earth.

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

<sup>12</sup> Pay homage to the Son, or He will  
be angry, and you will perish in your  
rebellion, for His anger may ignite at any  
moment. All those who take refuge in  
Him are happy.

**3**<sup>1</sup> A psalm of David when he fled from  
his son Absalom. LORD, how my foes  
increase! There are many who attack  
me.

<sup>2</sup> Many say about me, "There is no help  
for him in God." Selah

<sup>3</sup> But You, LORD, are a shield around  
me, my glory, and the One who lifts up  
my head.

<sup>4</sup> I cry aloud to the LORD, and He answers me from His holy mountain.  
Selah

<sup>5</sup> I lie down and sleep; I wake again because the LORD sustains me.

<sup>6</sup> I am not afraid of the thousands of people who have taken their stand against me on every side.

<sup>7</sup> Rise up, LORD! Save me, my God! You strike all my enemies on the cheek; You break the teeth of the wicked.

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

**4** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: with stringed instruments. A Davidic psalm.

Answer me when I call, God, who vindicates me. You freed me from affliction; be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup> How long, exalted men, will my honor be insulted? How long will you love what is worthless and pursue a lie? Selah

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for Himself; the LORD will hear when I call to Him.

<sup>4</sup> Be angry and do not sin; on your bed, reflect in your heart and be still. Selah

<sup>5</sup> Offer sacrifices in righteousness and trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> Many are saying, "Who can show us anything good?" Look on us with favor, LORD.

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

<sup>8</sup> I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, LORD, make me live in safety.

**5** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: with the flutes. A Davidic psalm. Listen to my words, LORD; consider my sighing.

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

<sup>3</sup> At daybreak, LORD, You hear my voice; at daybreak I plead my case to You and watch expectantly.

<sup>4</sup> For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil cannot lodge with You.

<sup>5</sup> The boastful cannot stand in Your presence; You hate all evildoers.

<sup>6</sup> You destroy those who tell lies; the LORD abhors a man of bloodshed and treachery.

<sup>7</sup> But I enter Your house by the abundance of Your faithful love; I bow down toward Your holy temple in reverential awe of You.

<sup>8</sup> LORD, lead me in Your righteousness, because of my adversaries; make Your way straight before me.

<sup>9</sup> For there is nothing reliable in what they say; destruction is within them; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongues.

<sup>10</sup> Punish them, God; let them fall by their own schemes. Drive them out because of their many crimes, for they rebel against You.

<sup>11</sup> But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them shout for joy forever. May You shelter them, and may those who love Your name boast about You.

<sup>12</sup> For You, LORD, bless the righteous one; You surround him with favor like a shield.

**6** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: with stringed instruments, according to Sheminith. A Davidic psalm. LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger; do not discipline me in Your wrath.

<sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am weak; heal me, LORD, for my bones are shaking;

<sup>3</sup> my whole being is shaken with terror. And You, LORD--how long?



<sup>4</sup> Turn, LORD! Rescue me; save me because of Your faithful love.

<sup>5</sup> For there is no remembrance of You in death; who can thank You in Sheol?

<sup>6</sup> I am weary from my groaning; with my tears I dampen my pillow and drench my bed every night.

<sup>7</sup> My eyes are swollen from grief; they grow old because of all my enemies.

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

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

<sup>10</sup> All my enemies will be ashamed and shake with terror; they will turn back and suddenly be disgraced.

**7** <sup>1</sup> A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning the words of Cush, a Benjaminite. LORD my God, I seek refuge in You; save me from all my pursuers and rescue me,

<sup>2</sup> or they will tear me like a lion, ripping me apart, with no one to rescue me.

<sup>3</sup> LORD my God, if I have done this, if there is injustice on my hands,

<sup>4</sup> if I have done harm to one at peace with me or have plundered my adversary without cause,

<sup>5</sup> may an enemy pursue and overtake me; may he trample me to the ground and leave my honor in the dust. Selah

<sup>6</sup> Rise up, LORD, in Your anger; lift Yourself up against the fury of my adversaries; awake for me; You have ordained a judgment.

<sup>7</sup> Let the assembly of peoples gather around You; take Your seat on high over it.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD judges the peoples; vindicate me, LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity.

<sup>9</sup> Let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous. The

One who examines the thoughts and emotions is a 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 executes justice every day.

<sup>12</sup> If anyone does not repent, God will sharpen His sword; He has strung His bow and made it ready.

<sup>13</sup> He has prepared His deadly weapons; He tips His arrows with fire.

<sup>14</sup> See, he is pregnant with evil, conceives trouble, and gives birth to deceit.

<sup>15</sup> He dug a pit and hollowed it out, but fell into the hole he had made.

<sup>16</sup> His trouble comes back on his own head, and his violence falls on the top of his head.

<sup>17</sup> I will thank the LORD for His righteousness; I will sing about the name of the LORD, the Most High.

**8** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: on the Gittith. A Davidic psalm. LORD, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth! You have covered the heavens with Your majesty.

<sup>2</sup> Because of Your adversaries, You have established a stronghold from the mouths of children and nursing infants, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place,

<sup>4</sup> what is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him?

<sup>5</sup> You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You made him lord over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet:

<sup>7</sup> all the sheep and oxen, as well as animals in the wild,

<sup>8</sup> birds of the sky, and fish of the sea  
passing through the currents of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> LORD, our Lord, how magnificent is  
Your name throughout the earth!

**9** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to  
Muth-labben. A Davidic psalm. I will  
thank the LORD with all my heart; I will  
declare all Your wonderful works.

<sup>2</sup> I will rejoice and boast about You; I  
will sing about Your name, Most High.

<sup>3</sup> When my enemies retreat, they  
stumble and perish before You.

<sup>4</sup> For You have upheld my just cause;  
You are seated on Your throne as a  
righteous judge.

<sup>5</sup> You have rebuked the nations: You  
have destroyed the wicked; You have  
erased their name forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> The enemy has come to eternal ruin;  
You have uprooted the cities, and the  
very memory of them has perished.

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD sits enthroned forever;  
He has established His throne for  
judgment.

<sup>8</sup> He judges the world with  
righteousness; He executes judgment on  
the peoples with fairness.

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

<sup>10</sup> Those who know Your name trust in  
You because You have not abandoned  
those who seek You, LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Sing to the LORD, who dwells in Zion;  
proclaim His deeds among the peoples.

<sup>12</sup> For the One who seeks an accounting  
for bloodshed remembers them; He  
does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

<sup>13</sup> Be gracious to me, LORD; consider  
my affliction at the hands of those who  
hate me. Lift me up from the gates of  
death,

<sup>14</sup> so that I may declare all Your praises.  
I will rejoice in Your salvation within the  
gates of Daughter Zion.

<sup>15</sup> The nations have fallen into the pit  
they made; their foot is caught in the net  
they have concealed.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD has revealed Himself;  
He has executed justice, striking down  
the wicked by the work of their hands.  
Higgaion. Selah

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

<sup>18</sup> For the oppressed will not always be  
forgotten; the hope of the afflicted will  
not perish forever.

<sup>19</sup> Rise up, LORD! Do not let man  
prevail; let the nations be judged in Your  
presence.

<sup>20</sup> Put terror in them, LORD; let the  
nations know they are only men. Selah

**10** <sup>1</sup> LORD, why do You stand so far away? Why do You hide in times of trouble?

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

<sup>3</sup> For the wicked one boasts about his own cravings; the one who is greedy curses and despises the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> In all his scheming, the wicked arrogantly thinks: "There is no accountability, since God does not exist."

<sup>5</sup> His ways are always secure; Your lofty judgments are beyond his sight; he scoffs at all his adversaries.

<sup>6</sup> He says to himself, "I will never be moved--from generation to generation without calamity."

<sup>7</sup> Cursing, deceit, and violence fill his mouth; trouble and malice are under his tongue.



<sup>8</sup> He waits in ambush near the villages; he kills the innocent in secret places; his eyes are on the lookout for the helpless.

<sup>9</sup> He lurks in secret like a lion in a thicket. He lurks in order to seize the afflicted. He seizes the afflicted and drags him in his net.

<sup>10</sup> He crouches and bends down; the helpless fall because of his strength.

<sup>11</sup> He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He hides His face and will never see."

<sup>12</sup> Rise up, LORD God! Lift up Your hand. Do not forget the afflicted.

<sup>13</sup> Why has the wicked despised God? He says to himself, "You will not demand an account."

<sup>14</sup> But You Yourself have seen trouble and grief, observing it in order to take the matter into Your hands. The helpless entrusts himself to You; You are a helper of the fatherless.

<sup>15</sup> Break the arm of the wicked and evil person; call his wickedness into account until nothing remains of it.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD is King forever and ever; the nations will perish from His land.

<sup>17</sup> LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their hearts. You will listen carefully,

<sup>18</sup> doing justice for the fatherless and the oppressed, so that men of the earth may terrify them no more.

**11** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. Davidic.  
I have taken refuge in the LORD.  
How can you say to me, "Escape to the mountain like a bird!

<sup>2</sup> For look, the wicked string the bow; they put the arrow on the bowstring to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.

<sup>3</sup> When 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 watch; He examines everyone.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD examines the righteous and the wicked. He hates the lover of violence.

<sup>6</sup> He will rain burning coals and sulfur on the wicked; a scorching wind will be their portion.

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is righteous; He loves righteous deeds. The upright will see His face.

**12** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to Sheminith. A Davidic psalm. Help, LORD, for no faithful one remains; the loyal have disappeared from the human race.

<sup>2</sup> They lie to one another; they speak with flattering lips and deceptive hearts.

<sup>3</sup> May the LORD cut off all flattering lips and the tongue that speaks boastfully.

<sup>4</sup> They say, "Through our tongues we have power; our lips are our own--who can be our master?"

<sup>5</sup> "Because of the oppression of the afflicted and the groaning of the poor, I will now rise up," says the LORD. "I will put in a safe place the one who longs for it."

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

<sup>7</sup> You, LORD, will guard us; You will protect us from this generation forever.

<sup>8</sup> The wicked wander everywhere, and what is worthless is exalted by the human race.

**13** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. LORD, how long will You continually forget me? How long will You hide Your face from me?

<sup>2</sup> How long will I store up anxious concerns within me, agony in my mind

every day? How long will my enemy dominate me?

<sup>3</sup> Consider me and answer, LORD, my God. Restore brightness to my eyes; otherwise, I will sleep in death,

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

<sup>5</sup> But I have trusted in Your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in Your deliverance.

<sup>6</sup> I will sing to the LORD because He has treated me generously.

**14** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. Davidic. The fool says in his heart, "God does not exist." They are corrupt; their actions are revolting. There is no one who does good.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God.

<sup>3</sup> All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.

<sup>4</sup> Will evildoers never understand? They consume my people as they consume bread; they do not call on the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Then they will be filled with terror, for God is with those who are righteous.

<sup>6</sup> You sinners frustrate the plans of the afflicted, but the LORD is his refuge.

<sup>7</sup> Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come from Zion! When the LORD restores His captive people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

**15** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. LORD, who can dwell in Your tent? Who can live on Your holy mountain?

<sup>2</sup> The one who lives honestly, practices righteousness, and acknowledges the truth in his heart--

<sup>3</sup> who does not slander with his tongue,  
who does not harm his friend or discredit  
his neighbor,

<sup>4</sup> who despises the one rejected by the  
LORD, but honors those who fear the  
LORD, who keeps his word whatever the  
cost,

<sup>5</sup> who does not lend his money at  
interest or take a bribe against the  
innocent--the one who does these things  
will never be moved.

**16** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic Miktam. Protect me,  
God, for I take refuge in You.

<sup>2</sup> I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I  
have no good besides You."

<sup>3</sup> As for the holy people who are in the  
land, they are the noble ones in whom is  
all my delight.

<sup>4</sup> The sorrows of those who take  
another god for themselves multiply; I  
will not pour out their drink offerings of

blood, and I will not speak their names with my lips.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, You are my portion and my cup of blessing ; You hold my future.

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

<sup>7</sup> I will praise the LORD who counsels me--even at night my conscience instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> I keep the LORD in mind always. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also rests securely.

<sup>10</sup> For You will not abandon me to Sheol; You will not allow Your Faithful One to see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup> You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; in Your right hand are eternal pleasures.



**17** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic prayer. LORD, hear a just cause; pay attention to my cry; listen to my prayer--from lips free of deceit.

<sup>2</sup> Let my vindication come from You, for You see what is right.

<sup>3</sup> You have tested my heart; You have visited by night; You have tried me and found nothing evil ; I have determined that my mouth will not sin.

<sup>4</sup> Concerning what people do: by the word of Your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

<sup>5</sup> My steps are on Your paths; my feet have not slipped.

<sup>6</sup> I call on You, God, because You will answer me; listen closely to me; hear what I say.

<sup>7</sup> Display the wonders of Your faithful love, Savior of all who seek refuge from those who rebel against Your right hand.

<sup>8</sup> Guard me as the apple of Your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of Your wings

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

<sup>10</sup> They have become hardened; their  
mouths speak arrogantly.

<sup>11</sup> They advance against me; now they  
surround me. They are determined to  
throw me to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> They are like a lion eager to tear, like  
a young lion lurking in ambush.

<sup>13</sup> Rise up, LORD! Confront him; bring  
him down. With Your sword, save me  
from the wicked.

<sup>14</sup> With Your hand, LORD, save me from  
men, from men of the world, whose  
portion is in this life: You fill their bellies  
with what You have in store, their sons  
are satisfied, and they leave their surplus  
to their children.

<sup>15</sup> But I will see Your face in righteousness; when I awake, I will be satisfied with Your presence.

**18** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. Of the servant of the LORD, David, who spoke the words of this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: I love You, LORD, my strength.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my mountain where I seek refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup> I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I was saved from my enemies.

<sup>4</sup> The ropes of death were wrapped around me; the torrents of destruction terrified me.

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

<sup>6</sup> I called to the LORD in my distress,  
and I cried to my God for help. From His  
temple He heard my voice, and my cry  
to Him reached His ears.

<sup>7</sup> Then the earth shook and quaked; the  
foundations of the mountains trembled;  
they shook because He burned with  
anger.

<sup>8</sup> Smoke rose from His nostrils, and  
consuming fire came from His mouth;  
coals were set ablaze by it.

<sup>9</sup> He parted the heavens and came  
down, a dark cloud beneath His feet.

<sup>10</sup> He rode on a cherub and flew, soaring  
on the wings of the wind.

<sup>11</sup> He made darkness His hiding place,  
dark storm clouds His canopy around  
Him.

<sup>12</sup> From the radiance of His presence,  
His clouds swept onward with hail and  
blazing coals.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD thundered from heaven;  
the Most High projected His voice.

<sup>14</sup> He shot His arrows and scattered  
them; He hurled lightning bolts and  
routed them.

<sup>15</sup> The depths of the sea became visible,  
the foundations of the world were  
exposed, at Your rebuke, LORD, at the  
blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

<sup>16</sup> He reached down from on high and  
took hold of me; He pulled me out of  
deep waters.

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

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

<sup>19</sup> He brought me out to a wide-open  
place; He rescued me because He  
delighted in me.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; He repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands.

<sup>21</sup> For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not turned from my God to wickedness.

<sup>22</sup> Indeed, I have kept all His ordinances in mind and have not disregarded His statutes.

<sup>23</sup> I was blameless toward Him and kept myself from sinning.

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

<sup>25</sup> With the faithful You prove Yourself faithful; with the blameless man You prove Yourself blameless;

<sup>26</sup> with the pure You prove Yourself pure, but with the crooked You prove Yourself shrewd.

<sup>27</sup> For You rescue an afflicted people,  
but You humble those with haughty  
eyes.

<sup>28</sup> LORD, You light my lamp; my God  
illuminates my darkness.

<sup>29</sup> With You I can attack a barrier, and  
with my God I can leap over a wall.

<sup>30</sup> God--His way is perfect; the word of  
the LORD is pure. He is a shield to all  
who take refuge in Him.

<sup>31</sup> For who is God besides the LORD?  
And who is a rock? Only our God.

<sup>32</sup> God--He clothes me with strength  
and makes my way perfect.

<sup>33</sup> He makes my feet like the feet of  
a deer and sets me securely on the  
heights.

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

<sup>35</sup> You have given me the shield of Your  
salvation; Your right hand upholds me,  
and Your humility exalts me.

<sup>36</sup> You widen a place beneath me for my steps, and my ankles do not give way.

<sup>37</sup> I pursue my enemies and overtake them; I do not turn back until they are wiped out.

<sup>38</sup> I crush them, and they cannot get up; they fall beneath my feet.

<sup>39</sup> You have clothed me with strength for battle; You subdue my adversaries beneath me.

<sup>40</sup> You have made my enemies retreat before me; I annihilate those who hate me.

<sup>41</sup> They cry for help, but there is no one to save them --they cry to the LORD, but He does not answer them.

<sup>42</sup> I pulverize them like dust before the wind; I trample them like mud in the streets.

<sup>43</sup> You have freed me from the feuds among the people; You have appointed



me the head of nations; a people I had not known serve me.

<sup>44</sup> Foreigners submit to me grudgingly; as soon as they hear, they obey me.

<sup>45</sup> Foreigners lose heart and come trembling from their fortifications.

<sup>46</sup> The LORD lives--may my rock be praised! The God of my salvation is exalted.

<sup>47</sup> God--He gives me vengeance and subdues peoples under me.

<sup>48</sup> He frees me from my enemies. You exalt me above my adversaries; You rescue me from violent men.

<sup>49</sup> Therefore I will praise You, LORD, among the nations; I will sing about Your name.

<sup>50</sup> He gives great victories to His king; He shows loyalty to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

**19** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. The heavens declare the

glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.

<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.

<sup>5</sup> It is like a groom coming from the bridal chamber; it rejoices like an athlete running a course.

<sup>6</sup> It rises from one end of the heavens and circles to their other end; nothing is hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The instruction of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.

<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the commandment of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up.

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether righteous.

<sup>10</sup> They are more desirable than gold--than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey--than honey dripping from the comb.

<sup>11</sup> In addition, Your servant is warned by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

<sup>12</sup> Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Moreover, keep Your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule over me. Then I will be innocent, and cleansed from blatant rebellion.

<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

**20** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. May the LORD answer you in a day of trouble; may the name of Jacob's God protect you.

<sup>2</sup> May He send you help from the sanctuary and sustain you from Zion.

<sup>3</sup> May He remember all your offerings and accept your burnt offering. Selah

<sup>4</sup> May He give you what your heart desires and fulfill your whole purpose.

<sup>5</sup> Let us shout for joy at your victory and lift the banner in the name of our God. May the LORD fulfill all your requests.

<sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD gives victory to His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with mighty victories from His right hand.

<sup>7</sup> Some take pride in a chariot, and others in horses, but we take pride in the name of the LORD our God.

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

<sup>9</sup> LORD, give victory to the king! May He answer us on the day that we call.

**21** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. LORD, the king finds joy in Your strength. How greatly he rejoices in Your victory!

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

<sup>3</sup> For You meet him with rich blessings; You place a crown of pure gold on his head.

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

<sup>5</sup> His glory is great through Your victory; You confer majesty and splendor on him.

<sup>6</sup> You give him blessings forever; You cheer him with joy in Your presence.

<sup>7</sup> For the king relies on the LORD; through the faithful love of the Most High he is not shaken.

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

<sup>9</sup> You will make them burn like a fiery furnace when you appear; the LORD will engulf them in His wrath, and fire will devour them.

<sup>10</sup> You will wipe their descendants from the earth and their offspring from the human race.

<sup>11</sup> Though they intend to harm you and devise a wicked plan, they will not prevail.

<sup>12</sup> Instead, you will put them to flight when you aim your bow at their faces.

<sup>13</sup> Be exalted, LORD, in Your strength; we will sing and praise Your might.

**22** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to "The Deer of the Dawn." A Davidic psalm. My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from my deliverance and from my words of groaning?

<sup>2</sup> My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, by night, yet I have no rest.

<sup>3</sup> But You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted, and You rescued them.

<sup>5</sup> They cried to You and were set free; they trusted in You and were not disgraced.

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

<sup>7</sup> Everyone who sees me mocks me; they sneer and shake their heads:

<sup>8</sup> "He relies on the LORD; let Him rescue him; let the LORD deliver him, since He takes pleasure in him."

<sup>9</sup> You took me from the womb, making me secure while at my mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup> I was given over to You at birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb.

<sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me, because distress is near and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup> Many bulls surround me; strong ones of Bashan encircle me.

<sup>13</sup> They open their mouths against me--lions, mauling and roaring.

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my bones are disjointed; my heart is like wax, melting within me.

<sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like baked clay; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You put me into the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup> For dogs have surrounded me; a gang of evildoers has closed in on me; they pierced my hands and my feet.



<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones; people look and stare at me.

<sup>18</sup> They divided my garments among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing.

<sup>19</sup> But You, LORD, don't be far away. My strength, come quickly to help me.

<sup>20</sup> Deliver my life from the sword, my very 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 proclaim Your name to my brothers; I will praise You in the congregation.

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor Him! All you descendants of Israel, revere Him!

<sup>24</sup> For He has not despised or detested the torment of the afflicted. He did not

hide His face from him, but listened when he cried to Him for help.

<sup>25</sup> I will give praise in the great congregation because of You; I will fulfill my vows before those who fear You.

<sup>26</sup> The humble will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise Him. May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of the nations will bow down before You,

<sup>28</sup> for kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> All who prosper on earth will eat and bow down; all those who go down to the dust will kneel before Him--even the one who cannot preserve his life.

<sup>30</sup> Descendants will serve Him; the next generation will be told about the Lord.

<sup>31</sup> They will come and tell a people yet to be born about His righteousness--what He has done.

**23** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

<sup>2</sup> He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

<sup>3</sup> He renews my life; He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, 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> Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live.

**24** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD;

<sup>2</sup> for He laid its foundation on the seas and established it on the rivers.

<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place?

<sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not set his mind on what is false, and who has not sworn 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, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will 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, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is He, this King of glory? The LORD of Hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah

**25** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. LORD, I turn my hope to You.

<sup>2</sup> My God, I trust in You. Do not let me be disgraced; do not let my enemies gloat over me.

<sup>3</sup> Not one person who waits for You will be disgraced; those who act treacherously without cause will be disgraced.

<sup>4</sup> Make Your ways known to me, LORD; teach me Your paths.

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

<sup>6</sup> Remember, LORD, Your compassion and Your faithful love, for they have existed from antiquity.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my acts of rebellion; in keeping with Your faithful love, remember me because of Your goodness, LORD.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is good and upright; therefore He shows sinners the way.

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

<sup>10</sup> All the LORD's ways show faithful love and truth to those who keep His covenant and decrees.

<sup>11</sup> Because of Your name, LORD, forgive my sin, for it is great.

<sup>12</sup> Who is the person who fears the LORD? He will show him the way he should choose.

<sup>13</sup> He will live a good life, and his descendants will inherit the land.

<sup>14</sup> The secret counsel of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He reveals His covenant to them.

<sup>15</sup> My eyes are always on the LORD, for He will pull my feet out of the net.

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

<sup>17</sup> The distresses of my heart increase; bring me out of my sufferings.

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

<sup>19</sup> Consider my enemies; they are numerous, and they hate me violently.

<sup>20</sup> Guard me and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in You.

<sup>21</sup> May integrity and uprightness keep me, for I wait for You.

<sup>22</sup> God, redeem Israel, from all its distresses.

**26** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. Vindicate me, LORD, because I have lived with integrity and have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

<sup>2</sup> Test me, LORD, and try me; examine my heart and mind.

<sup>3</sup> For Your faithful love is before my eyes, and I live by Your truth.

<sup>4</sup> I do not sit with the worthless or associate with hypocrites.

<sup>5</sup> I hate a crowd of evildoers, and I do not sit with the wicked.

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

<sup>7</sup> raising my voice in thanksgiving and telling about Your wonderful works.

<sup>8</sup> LORD, I love the house where You dwell, the place where Your glory resides.

<sup>9</sup> Do not destroy me along with sinners, or my life along with men of bloodshed



<sup>10</sup> in whose hands are evil schemes, and whose right hands are filled with bribes.

<sup>11</sup> But I live with integrity; redeem me and be gracious to me.

<sup>12</sup> My foot stands on level ground; I will praise the LORD in the assemblies.

**27** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. The LORD is my light and my salvation--whom should I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life--of whom should I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh, my foes and my enemies stumbled and fell.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army deploy against me, my heart is not afraid; though war break out against me, still I am confident.

<sup>4</sup> I have asked one thing from the LORD; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the LORD and seeking Him in His temple.

<sup>5</sup> For He will conceal me in His shelter in the day of adversity; He will hide me under the cover of His tent; He will set me high on a rock.

<sup>6</sup> Then my head will be high above my enemies around me; I will offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy. I will sing and make music to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> LORD, hear my voice when I call; be gracious to me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> In Your behalf my heart says, "Seek My face." LORD, I will seek Your face.

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger. You have been my help; do not leave me or abandon me, God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD cares for me.

<sup>11</sup> Because of my adversaries, show me Your way, LORD, and lead me on a level path.

<sup>12</sup> Do not give me over to the will of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing violence.

<sup>13</sup> I am certain that I will see the LORD's goodness in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD; be courageous and let your heart be strong. Wait for the LORD.

**28** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. LORD, I call to You; my rock, do not be deaf to me. If You remain silent to me, I will be like those going down to the Pit.

<sup>2</sup> Listen to the sound of my pleading when I cry to You for help, when I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

<sup>3</sup> Do not drag me away with the wicked, with the evildoers, who speak in friendly ways with their neighbors, while malice is in their hearts.

<sup>4</sup> Repay them according to what they have done--according to the evil of their deeds. Repay them according to the

work of their hands; give them back what they deserve.

<sup>5</sup> Because they do not consider what the LORD has done or the work of His hands, He will tear them down and not rebuild them.

<sup>6</sup> May the LORD be praised, for He has heard the sound of my pleading.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. Therefore my heart rejoices, and I praise Him with my song.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is the strength of His people; He is a stronghold of salvation for His anointed.

<sup>9</sup> Save Your people, bless Your possession, shepherd them, and carry them forever.

**29** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. Give the LORD--you heavenly beings--give the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Give the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is above the waters. The God of glory thunders--the LORD, above vast waters,

<sup>4</sup> the voice of the LORD in power, the voice of the LORD in splendor.

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

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

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes 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 woodlands bare. In His temple all cry, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sat enthroned at the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned, King forever.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD gives His people strength;  
the LORD blesses His people with peace.

**30** <sup>1</sup> A psalm; a dedication song for  
the house. Davidic. I will exalt  
You, LORD, because You have lifted me  
up and have not allowed my enemies to  
triumph over me.

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

<sup>3</sup> LORD, You brought me up from Sheol;  
You spared me from among those going  
down to the Pit.

<sup>4</sup> Sing to the LORD, you His faithful  
ones, and praise His holy name.

<sup>5</sup> For His anger lasts only a moment, but  
His favor, a lifetime. Weeping may spend  
the night, but there is joy in the morning.

<sup>6</sup> When I was secure, I said, "I will never  
be shaken."

<sup>7</sup> LORD, when You showed Your favor,  
You made me stand like a strong  
mountain; when You hid Your face, I was  
terrified.

<sup>8</sup> LORD, I called to You; I sought favor  
from my Lord:

<sup>9</sup> "What gain is there in my death, in  
my descending to the Pit? Will the dust  
praise You? Will it proclaim Your truth?

<sup>10</sup> LORD, listen and be gracious to me;  
LORD, be my helper."

<sup>11</sup> You turned my lament into dancing;  
You removed my sackcloth and clothed  
me with gladness,

<sup>12</sup> so that I can sing to You and not be  
silent. LORD my God, I will praise You  
forever.

**31** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic  
psalm. LORD, I seek refuge in You;  
let me never be disgraced. Save me by  
Your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> Listen closely to me; rescue me quickly. Be a rock of refuge for me, a mountain fortress to save me.

<sup>3</sup> For You are my rock and my fortress; You lead and guide me because of Your name.

<sup>4</sup> You will free me from the net that is secretly set for me, for You are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup> Into Your hand I entrust my spirit; You redeem me, LORD, God of truth.

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

<sup>7</sup> I will rejoice and be glad in Your faithful love because You have seen my affliction. You have known the troubles of my life

<sup>8</sup> and have not handed me over to the enemy. You have set my feet in a spacious place.

<sup>9</sup> Be gracious to me, LORD, because I am in distress; my eyes are worn out



from angry sorrow--my whole being as well.

<sup>10</sup> Indeed, my life is consumed with grief, and my years with groaning; my strength has failed because of my sinfulness, and my bones waste away.

<sup>11</sup> I am ridiculed by all my adversaries and even by my neighbors. I am an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street run from me.

<sup>12</sup> I am forgotten: gone from memory like a dead person--like broken pottery.

<sup>13</sup> I have heard the gossip of many; terror is on every side. When they conspired against me, they plotted to take my life.

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

<sup>15</sup> The course of my life is in Your power; deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.

<sup>16</sup> Show Your favor to Your servant; save me by Your faithful love.

<sup>17</sup> LORD, do not let me be disgraced when I call on You. Let the wicked be disgraced; let them be silent in Sheol.

<sup>18</sup> Let lying lips be quieted; they speak arrogantly against the righteous with pride and contempt.

<sup>19</sup> How great is Your goodness that You have stored up for those who fear You, and accomplished in the sight of everyone for those who take refuge in You.

<sup>20</sup> You hide them in the protection of Your presence; You conceal them in a shelter from the schemes of men, from quarrelsome tongues.

<sup>21</sup> May the LORD be praised, for He has wonderfully shown His faithful love to me in a city under siege.

<sup>22</sup> In my alarm I had said, "I am cut off from Your sight." But You heard the

sound of my pleading when I cried to You for help.

<sup>23</sup> Love the LORD, all His faithful ones. The LORD protects the loyal, but fully repays the arrogant.

<sup>24</sup> Be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the LORD.

**32** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. A Maskil. How happy is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

<sup>2</sup> How happy is the man the LORD does not charge with sin, and in whose spirit is no deceit!

<sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in the summer's heat. Selah

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the

LORD," and You took away the guilt of my sin. Selah

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let everyone who is faithful pray to You at a time that You may be found. When great floodwaters come, they will not reach him.

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding place; You protect me from trouble. You surround me with joyful shouts of deliverance. Selah

<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and show you the way to go; with My eye on you, I will give counsel.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like a horse or mule, without understanding, that must be controlled with bit and bridle, or else it will not come near you.

<sup>10</sup> Many pains come to the wicked, but the one who trusts in the LORD will have faithful love surrounding him.

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

**33** <sup>1</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous ones; praise from the upright is beautiful.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD with the lyre; make music to Him with a ten-stringed harp.

<sup>3</sup> Sing a new song to Him; play skillfully on the strings, with a joyful shout.

<sup>4</sup> For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is trustworthy.

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

<sup>6</sup> The heavens were made by the word of the LORD, and all the stars, by the breath of His mouth.

<sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea into a heap; He puts the depths into storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> Let the whole earth tremble before the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

<sup>9</sup> For He spoke, and it came into being; He commanded, and it came into existence.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD frustrates the counsel of the nations; He thwarts the plans of the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD--the people He has chosen to be His own possession!

<sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven; He observes everyone.

<sup>14</sup> He gazes on all the inhabitants of the earth from His dwelling place.

<sup>15</sup> He alone crafts their hearts; He considers all their works.

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by a large army; a warrior will not be delivered by great strength.

<sup>17</sup> The horse is a false hope for safety; it provides no escape by its great power.

<sup>18</sup> Now the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him--those who depend on His faithful love

<sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and to keep them alive in famine.

<sup>20</sup> We wait for the LORD; He is our help and shield.

<sup>21</sup> For our hearts rejoice in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

<sup>22</sup> May Your faithful love rest on us, LORD, for we put our hope in You. Concerning David, when he pretended to be insane in the presence of Abimelech, who drove him out, and he departed.

**34** <sup>1</sup> I will praise the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.

<sup>2</sup> I will boast in the LORD; the humble will hear and be glad.

<sup>3</sup> Proclaim with me the LORD's greatness; 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 with joy; their faces will never be ashamed.

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

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

<sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the LORD is good. How happy is the man who takes refuge in Him!

<sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup> Young lions lack food and go hungry, but those who seek the LORD will not lack any good thing.



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

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man who delights in life, loving a long life to enjoy what is good?

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceitful speech.

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

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry for help.

<sup>16</sup> The face of the LORD is set against those who do what is evil, to erase all memory of them from the earth.

<sup>17</sup> The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them from all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Many adversities come to the one who is righteous, but the LORD delivers him from them all.

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

<sup>21</sup> Evil brings death to the sinner, and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD redeems the life of His servants, and all who take refuge in Him will not be punished.

**35** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. Oppose my opponents, LORD; fight those who fight me.

<sup>2</sup> Take Your shields--large and small--and come to my aid.

<sup>3</sup> Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers, and assure me: "I am your deliverance."

<sup>4</sup> Let those who seek to kill me be disgraced and humiliated; let those who plan to harm me be turned back and ashamed.

<sup>5</sup> Let them be like husks in 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> They hid their net for me without cause; they dug a pit for me without cause.

<sup>8</sup> Let ruin come on him unexpectedly, and let the net that he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it--to his ruin.

<sup>9</sup> Then I will rejoice in the LORD; I will delight in His deliverance.

<sup>10</sup> My very bones will say, "LORD, who is like You, rescuing the poor from one too strong for him, the poor or the needy from one who robs him?"

<sup>11</sup> Malicious witnesses come forward; they question me about things I do not know.

<sup>12</sup> They repay me evil for good, making me desolate.

<sup>13</sup> Yet when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting, and my prayer was genuine.

<sup>14</sup> I went about grieving as if for my friend or brother; I was bowed down with grief, like one mourning a mother.

<sup>15</sup> But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; they gathered against me. Assailants I did not know tore at me and did not stop.

<sup>16</sup> With godless mockery they gnashed their teeth at me.

<sup>17</sup> Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue my life from their ravages, my very life from the young lions.

<sup>18</sup> I will praise You in the great congregation; I will exalt You among many people.

<sup>19</sup> Do not let my deceitful enemies rejoice over me; do not let those who hate me without cause look at me maliciously.

<sup>20</sup> For they do not speak in friendly ways, but contrive deceitful schemes against those who live peacefully in the land.

<sup>21</sup> They open their mouths wide against me and say, "Aha, aha! We saw it!"

<sup>22</sup> You saw it, LORD; do not be silent. Lord, do not be far from me.

<sup>23</sup> Wake up and rise to my defense, to my cause, my God and my LORD!

<sup>24</sup> Vindicate me, LORD, my God, in keeping with Your righteousness, and do not let them rejoice over me.

<sup>25</sup> Do not let them say in their hearts, "Aha! Just what we wanted." Do not let them say, "We have swallowed him up!"

<sup>26</sup> Let those who rejoice at my misfortune be disgraced and humiliated; let those who exalt themselves over me be clothed with shame and reproach.

<sup>27</sup> Let those who want my vindication shout for joy and be glad; let them

continually say, "The LORD be exalted,  
who wants His servant's well-being."

<sup>28</sup> And my tongue will proclaim Your  
righteousness, Your praise all day long.

**36** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A psalm  
of David, the LORD's servant. An  
oracle within my heart concerning the  
transgression of the wicked: There is no  
dread of God before his eyes,

<sup>2</sup> for in his own eyes he flatters himself  
too much to discover and hate his sin.

<sup>3</sup> The words of his mouth are malicious  
and deceptive; he has stopped acting  
wisely and doing good.

<sup>4</sup> Even on his bed he makes malicious  
plans. He sets himself on a path that is  
not good and does not reject evil.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, Your faithful love reaches to  
heaven, Your faithfulness to the skies.

<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the highest  
mountain; Your judgments, like the

deepest sea. LORD, You preserve man and beast.

<sup>7</sup> God, Your faithful love is so valuable that people take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

<sup>8</sup> They are filled from the abundance of Your house; You let them drink from Your refreshing stream,

<sup>9</sup> for with You is life's fountain. In Your light we will see light.

<sup>10</sup> Spread Your faithful love over those who know You, and Your righteousness over the upright in heart.

<sup>11</sup> Do not let the foot of the arrogant come near me or the hand of the wicked drive me away.

<sup>12</sup> There the evildoers fall; they have been thrown down and cannot rise.

**37** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. Do not be agitated by evildoers; do not envy those who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> For they wither quickly like grass and wilt like tender green plants.

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD and do what is good; dwell in the land and live securely.

<sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you your heart's desires.

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act,

<sup>6</sup> making your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like the noonday.

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the LORD and wait expectantly for Him; do not be agitated by one who prospers in his way, by the man who carries out evil plans.

<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and give up your rage; do not be agitated--it can only bring harm.

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers will be destroyed, but those who put their hope in the LORD will inherit the land.



<sup>10</sup> A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for him, he will not be there.

<sup>11</sup> But the humble will inherit the land and will enjoy abundant prosperity.

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

<sup>13</sup> The Lord laughs at him because He sees that his day is coming.

<sup>14</sup> The wicked have drawn the sword and strung the bow to bring down the afflicted and needy and to slaughter those whose way is upright.

<sup>15</sup> Their swords will enter their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

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

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

<sup>18</sup> The LORD watches over the blameless all their days, and their inheritance will last forever.

<sup>19</sup> They will not be disgraced in times of adversity; they will be satisfied in days of hunger.

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked will perish; the LORD's enemies, like the glory of the pastures, will fade away--they will fade away like smoke.

<sup>21</sup> The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous is gracious and giving.

<sup>22</sup> Those who are blessed by Him will inherit the land, but those cursed by Him will be destroyed.

<sup>23</sup> A man's steps are established by the LORD, and He takes pleasure in his way.

<sup>24</sup> Though he falls, he will not be overwhelmed, because the LORD holds his hand.

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

<sup>26</sup> He is always generous, always lending, and his children are a blessing.

<sup>27</sup> Turn away from evil and do what is good, and dwell there forever.

<sup>28</sup> For the LORD loves justice and will not abandon His faithful ones. They are kept safe forever, but the children of the wicked will be destroyed.

<sup>29</sup> The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it permanently.

<sup>30</sup> The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom; his tongue speaks what is just.

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

<sup>32</sup> The wicked lies in wait for the righteous and seeks to kill him;

<sup>33</sup> the LORD will not leave him in his hand or allow him to be condemned when he is judged.

<sup>34</sup> Wait for the LORD and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land. You will watch when the wicked are destroyed.

<sup>35</sup> I have seen a wicked, violent man well-rooted like a flourishing native tree.

<sup>36</sup> Then I passed by and noticed he was gone; I searched for him, but he could not be found.

<sup>37</sup> Watch the blameless and observe the upright, for the man of peace will have a future.

<sup>38</sup> But transgressors will all be eliminated; the future of the wicked will be destroyed.

<sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD, their refuge in a time of distress.

<sup>40</sup> The LORD helps and delivers them; He will deliver them from the wicked and will save them because they take refuge in Him.

**38** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm for remembrance. LORD, do not punish me in Your anger or discipline me in Your wrath.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> For my sins have flooded over my head; they are a burden too heavy for me to bear.

<sup>5</sup> My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness.

<sup>6</sup> I am bent over and brought low; all day long I go around in mourning.

<sup>7</sup> For my loins are full of burning pain, and there is no health in my body.

<sup>8</sup> I am faint and severely crushed; I groan because of the anguish of my heart.

<sup>9</sup> Lord, my every desire is known to You; my sighing is not hidden from You.

<sup>10</sup> My heart races, my strength leaves me, and even the light of my eyes has faded.

<sup>11</sup> My loved ones and friends stand back from my affliction, and my relatives stand at a distance.

<sup>12</sup> Those who seek my life set traps, and those who want to harm me threaten to destroy me; they plot treachery all day long.

<sup>13</sup> I am like a deaf person; I do not hear. I am like a speechless person who does not open his mouth.

<sup>14</sup> I am like a man who does not hear and has no arguments in his mouth.

<sup>15</sup> I put my hope in You, LORD; You will answer, Lord my God.

<sup>16</sup> For I said, "Don't let them rejoice over me--those who are arrogant toward me when I stumble."

<sup>17</sup> For I am about to fall, and my pain is constantly with me.

<sup>18</sup> So I confess my guilt; I am anxious because of my sin.

<sup>19</sup> But my enemies are vigorous and powerful; many hate me for no reason.

<sup>20</sup> Those who repay evil for good attack me for pursuing good.

<sup>21</sup> LORD, do not abandon me; my God, do not be far from me.

<sup>22</sup> Hurry to help me, Lord, my Savior.

**39** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director, for Jeduthun. A Davidic psalm. I said, "I will guard my ways so that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle as long as the wicked are in my presence."

<sup>2</sup> I was speechless and quiet; I kept silent, even from speaking good, and my pain intensified.

<sup>3</sup> My heart grew hot within me; as I mused, a fire burned. I spoke with my tongue:

<sup>4</sup> "LORD, reveal to me the end of my life and the number of my days. Let me know how transitory I am.

<sup>5</sup> You, indeed, have made my days short in length, and my life span as nothing in Your sight. Yes, every mortal man is only a vapor. Selah

<sup>6</sup> Certainly, man walks about like a mere shadow. Indeed, they frantically rush around in vain, gathering possessions without knowing who will get them.

<sup>7</sup> "Now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

<sup>8</sup> Deliver me from all my transgressions; do not make me the taunt of fools.



<sup>9</sup> I am speechless; I do not open my mouth because of what You have done.

<sup>10</sup> Remove Your torment from me; I fade away because of the force of Your hand.

<sup>11</sup> You discipline a man with punishment for sin, consuming like a moth what is precious to him; every man is a mere vapor. Selah

<sup>12</sup> "Hear my prayer, LORD, and listen to my cry for help; do not be silent at my tears. For I am a foreigner residing with You, a sojourner like all my fathers.

<sup>13</sup> Turn Your angry gaze from me so that I may be cheered up before I die and am gone."

**40** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. I waited patiently for the LORD, and He turned to me and heard my cry for help.

<sup>2</sup> He brought me up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure.

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

<sup>4</sup> How happy is the man who has put his trust in the LORD and has not turned to the proud or to those who run after lies!

<sup>5</sup> LORD my God, You have done many things--Your wonderful works and Your plans for us; none can compare with You. If I were to report and speak of them , they are more than can be told.

<sup>6</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice and offering; You open my ears to listen. You do not ask for a whole burnt offering or a sin offering.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "See, I have come; it is written about me in the volume of the scroll.

<sup>8</sup> I delight to do Your will, my God; Your instruction resides within me."

<sup>9</sup> I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; see, I do not keep my mouth closed--as You know, LORD.

<sup>10</sup> I did not hide Your righteousness in my heart; I spoke about Your faithfulness and salvation; I did not conceal Your constant love and truth from the great assembly.

<sup>11</sup> LORD, do not withhold Your compassion from me; Your constant love and truth will always guard me.

<sup>12</sup> For troubles without number have surrounded me; my sins have overtaken me; I am unable to see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my courage leaves me.

<sup>13</sup> LORD, be pleased to deliver me; hurry to help me, LORD.

<sup>14</sup> Let those who seek to take my life be disgraced and confounded. Let those

who wish me harm be driven back and humiliated.

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

<sup>16</sup> Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love Your salvation continually say, The LORD is great!"

<sup>17</sup> I am afflicted and needy; the Lord thinks of me. You are my help and my deliverer; my God, do not delay.

**41** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. Happy is one who cares for the poor; the LORD will save him in a day of adversity.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD will keep him and preserve him; he will be blessed in the land. You will not give him over to the desire of his enemies.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed; You will heal him on the bed where he lies.

<sup>4</sup> I said, "LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You."

<sup>5</sup> My enemies speak maliciously about me: "When will he die and be forgotten?"

<sup>6</sup> When one of them comes to visit, he speaks deceitfully; he stores up evil in his heart; he goes out and talks.

<sup>7</sup> All who hate me whisper together about me; they plan to harm me.

<sup>8</sup> "Lethal poison has been poured into him, and he won't rise again from where he lies!"

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

<sup>10</sup> But You, LORD, be gracious to me and raise me up; then I will repay them.

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

<sup>12</sup> You supported me because of my integrity and set me in Your presence forever.

<sup>13</sup> May the LORD, the God of Israel, be praised from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and amen.

**42** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah. As a deer longs for streams of water, so I long for You, God.

<sup>2</sup> I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and appear before God?

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

<sup>4</sup> I remember this as I pour out my heart: how I walked with many, leading the festive procession to the house of God, with joyful and thankful shouts.

<sup>5</sup> Why am I so depressed? Why this turmoil within me? Put your hope in

God, for I will still praise Him, my Savior and my God.

<sup>6</sup> I am deeply depressed; therefore I remember You from the land of Jordan and the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

<sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep in the roar of Your waterfalls; all Your breakers and Your billows have swept over me.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will send His faithful love by day; His song will be with me in the night--a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I will say to God, my rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why must I go about in sorrow because of the enemy's oppression?"

<sup>10</sup> My adversaries taunt me, as if crushing my bones, while all day long they say to me, "Where is your God?"

<sup>11</sup> Why am I so depressed? Why this turmoil within me? Put your hope in

God, for I will still praise Him, my Savior and my God.

**43** <sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, God, and defend my cause against an ungodly nation; rescue me from the deceitful and unjust man.

<sup>2</sup> For You are the God of my refuge. Why have You rejected me? Why must I go about in sorrow because of the enemy's oppression?

<sup>3</sup> Send Your light and Your truth; let them lead me. Let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to Your dwelling place.

<sup>4</sup> Then I will come to the altar of God, to God, my greatest joy. I will praise You with the lyre, God, my God.

<sup>5</sup> Why am I so depressed? Why this turmoil within me? Put your hope in God, for I will still praise Him, my Savior and my God.

**44** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah. God,



we have heard with our ears--our forefathers have told us--the work You accomplished in their days, in days long ago:

<sup>2</sup> to plant them, You drove out the nations with Your hand; to settle them, You crushed the peoples.

<sup>3</sup> For they did not take the land by their sword--their arm did not bring them victory--but by Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your face, for You were pleased with them.

<sup>4</sup> You are my King, my God, who ordains victories for Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> Through You we drive back our foes; through Your name we trample our enemies.

<sup>6</sup> For I do not trust in my bow, and my sword does not bring me victory.

<sup>7</sup> But You give us victory over our foes and let those who hate us be disgraced.

<sup>8</sup> We boast in God all day long; we will praise Your name forever. Selah

<sup>9</sup> But You have rejected and humiliated us; You do not march out with our armies.

<sup>10</sup> You make us retreat from the foe, and those who hate us have taken plunder for themselves.

<sup>11</sup> You hand us over to be eaten like sheep and scatter us among the nations.

<sup>12</sup> You sell Your people for nothing; You make no profit from selling them.

<sup>13</sup> You make us an object of reproach to our neighbors, a source of mockery and ridicule to those around us.

<sup>14</sup> You make us a joke among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples.

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

<sup>16</sup> because of the voice of the scorner and reviler, because of the enemy and avenger.

<sup>17</sup> All this has happened to us, but we have not forgotten You or betrayed Your covenant.

<sup>18</sup> Our hearts have not turned back; our steps have not strayed from Your path.

<sup>19</sup> But You have crushed us in a haunt of jackals and have covered us with deepest darkness.

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

<sup>21</sup> wouldn't God have found this out, since He knows the secrets of the heart?

<sup>22</sup> Because of You we are slain all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.

<sup>23</sup> Wake up, LORD! Why are You sleeping? Get up! Don't reject us forever!

<sup>24</sup> Why do You hide Yourself and forget our affliction and oppression?

<sup>25</sup> For we have sunk down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.

<sup>26</sup> Rise up! Help us! Redeem us because of Your faithful love.

**45** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to "The Lilies." A Maskil of the sons of Korah. A love song. My heart is moved by a noble theme as I recite my verses to the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.

<sup>2</sup> You are the most handsome of men; grace flows from your lips. Therefore God has blessed you forever.

<sup>3</sup> Mighty warrior, strap your sword at your side. In your majesty and splendor--

<sup>4</sup> in your splendor ride triumphantly in the cause of truth, humility, and justice. May your right hand show your awe-inspiring deeds.

<sup>5</sup> Your arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you.

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, God, is forever and ever; the scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of justice.

<sup>7</sup> You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you, more than your companions, with the oil of joy.

<sup>8</sup> Myrrh, aloes, and cassia perfume all your garments; from ivory palaces harps bring you joy.

<sup>9</sup> Kings' daughters are among your honored women; the queen, adorned with gold from Ophir, stands at your right hand.

<sup>10</sup> Listen, daughter, pay attention and consider: forget your people and your father's house,

<sup>11</sup> and the king will desire your beauty. Bow down to him, for he is your lord.

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

<sup>13</sup> In her chamber, the royal daughter is all glorious, her clothing embroidered with gold.

<sup>14</sup> In colorful garments she is led to the king; after her, the virgins, her companions, are brought to you.

<sup>15</sup> They are led in with gladness and rejoicing; they enter the king's palace.

<sup>16</sup> Your sons will succeed your ancestors; you will make them princes throughout the land.

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

**46** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A song of the sons of Korah. According to Alamo. God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not be afraid,  
though the earth trembles and the  
mountains topple into the depths of the  
seas,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam and  
the mountains quake with its turmoil.  
Selah

<sup>4</sup> There is a river--its streams delight the  
city of God, the holy dwelling place of  
the Most High.

<sup>5</sup> God is within her; she will not be  
toppled. God will help her when the  
morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> Nations rage, kingdoms topple; the  
earth melts when He lifts His voice.

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

<sup>8</sup> Come, see the works of the LORD,  
who brings devastation on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease throughout the  
earth. He shatters bows and cuts spears  
to pieces; He burns up the chariots.

<sup>10</sup> "Stop your fighting --and know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth."

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

**47** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A psalm of the sons of Korah. Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a jubilant cry.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High is awe-inspiring, a great King over all the earth.

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

<sup>4</sup> He chooses for us our inheritance--the pride of Jacob, whom He loves. Selah

<sup>5</sup> God ascends amid shouts of joy, the LORD, amid the sound of trumpets.

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

<sup>7</sup> Sing a song of instruction, for God is King of all the earth.



<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne.

<sup>9</sup> The nobles of the peoples have assembled with the people of the God of Abraham. For the leaders of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.

**48** <sup>1</sup> A song. A psalm of the sons of Korah. The LORD is great and is highly praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain,

<sup>2</sup> rising splendidly, is the joy of the whole earth. Mount Zion on the slopes of the north is the city of the great King.

<sup>3</sup> God is known as a stronghold in its citadels.

<sup>4</sup> Look! The kings assembled; they advanced together.

<sup>5</sup> They looked, and froze with fear; they fled in terror.

<sup>6</sup> Trembling seized them there, agony like that of a woman in labor,

<sup>7</sup> as You wrecked the ships of Tarshish with the east wind.

<sup>8</sup> Just as we heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD of Hosts, in the city of our God; God will establish it forever.  
Selah

<sup>9</sup> God, within Your temple, we contemplate Your faithful love.

<sup>10</sup> Your name, God, like Your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is filled with justice.

<sup>11</sup> Mount Zion is glad. The towns of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments.

<sup>12</sup> Go around Zion, encircle it; count its towers,

<sup>13</sup> note its ramparts; tour its citadels so that you can tell a future generation:

<sup>14</sup> "This God, our God forever and ever--He will lead us eternally."

**49** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A psalm of the sons of Korah. Hear this, all

you peoples; listen, all who inhabit the world,

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

<sup>3</sup> My mouth speaks wisdom; my heart's meditation brings understanding.

<sup>4</sup> I turn my ear to a proverb; I explain my riddle with a lyre.

<sup>5</sup> Why should I fear in times of trouble? The iniquity of my foes surrounds me.

<sup>6</sup> They trust in their wealth and boast of their abundant riches.

<sup>7</sup> Yet these cannot redeem a person or pay his ransom to God--

<sup>8</sup> since the price of redeeming him is too costly, one should forever stop trying--

<sup>9</sup> so that he may live forever and not see the Pit.

<sup>10</sup> For one can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless also pass

away. Then they leave their wealth to others.

<sup>11</sup> Their graves are their eternal homes, their homes from generation to generation, though they have named estates after themselves.

<sup>12</sup> But despite his assets, man will not last; he is like the animals that perish.

<sup>13</sup> This is the way of those who are arrogant, and of their followers, who approve of their words. Selah

<sup>14</sup> Like sheep they are headed for Sheol; Death will shepherd them. The upright will rule over them in the morning, and their form will waste away in Sheol, far from their lofty abode.

<sup>15</sup> But God will redeem my life from the power of Sheol, for He will take me. Selah

<sup>16</sup> Do not be afraid when a man gets rich, when the wealth of his house increases.

<sup>17</sup> For when he dies, he will take nothing at all; his wealth will not follow him down.

<sup>18</sup> Though he praises himself during his lifetime--and people praise you when you do well for yourself--

<sup>19</sup> he will go to the generation of his fathers; they will never see the light.

<sup>20</sup> A man with valuable possessions but without understanding is like the animals that perish.

**50** <sup>1</sup> A psalm of Asaph. God, the LORD God speaks; He summons the earth from east to west.

<sup>2</sup> From Zion, the perfection of beauty, God appears in radiance.

<sup>3</sup> Our God is coming; He will not be silent! Devouring fire precedes Him, and a storm rages around Him.

<sup>4</sup> On high, He summons heaven and earth in order to judge His people.

<sup>5</sup> "Gather My faithful ones to Me,  
those who made a covenant with Me by  
sacrifice."

<sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim His  
righteousness, for God is the judge.  
Selah

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

<sup>8</sup> I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices  
or for your burnt offerings, which are  
continually before Me.

<sup>9</sup> I will not accept a bull from your  
household or male goats from your  
pens,

<sup>10</sup> for every animal of the forest is Mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.

<sup>11</sup> I know every bird of the mountains,  
and the creatures of the field are Mine.

<sup>12</sup> If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and everything in it is  
Mine.

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

<sup>14</sup> Sacrifice a thank offering to God, and pay your vows to the Most High.

<sup>15</sup> Call on Me in a day of trouble; I will rescue you, and you will honor Me."

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

<sup>17</sup> You hate instruction and turn your back on My words.

<sup>18</sup> When you see a thief, you make friends with him, and you associate with adulterers.

<sup>19</sup> You unleash your mouth for evil and harness your tongue for deceit.

<sup>20</sup> You sit, maligning your brother, slandering your mother's son.

<sup>21</sup> You have done these things, and I kept silent; you thought I was just like you. But I will rebuke you and lay out the case before you.

<sup>22</sup> "Understand this, you who forget God, or I will tear you apart, and there will be no rescuer.

<sup>23</sup> Whoever sacrifices a thank offering honors Me, and whoever orders his conduct, I will show him the salvation of God."

**51** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm, when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone to Bathsheba. Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithful love; according to Your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I am conscious of my rebellion, and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against You--You alone--I have sinned and done this evil in Your sight. So You are right when You pass sentence; You are blameless when You judge.



<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was guilty when I was born;  
I was sinful when my mother conceived  
me.

<sup>6</sup> Surely You desire integrity in the inner  
self, and You teach me wisdom deep  
within.

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

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the  
bones You have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Turn Your face away from my sins and  
blot out all my guilt.

<sup>10</sup> God, create a clean heart for me and  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not banish me from Your presence  
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore the joy of Your salvation to  
me, and give me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach the rebellious Your  
ways, and sinners will return to You.

<sup>14</sup> Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

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

<sup>16</sup> You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; You are not pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. God, You will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

<sup>18</sup> In Your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper; build the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup> Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

**52** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic Maskil. When Doeg the Edomite went and reported to Saul, telling him, "David went to Ahimelech's house." Why brag about evil, you hero! God's faithful love is constant.

<sup>2</sup> Like a sharpened razor, your tongue devises destruction, working treachery.

<sup>3</sup> You love evil instead of good, lying instead of speaking truthfully. Selah

<sup>4</sup> You love any words that destroy, you treacherous tongue!

<sup>5</sup> This is why God will bring you down forever. He will take you, ripping you out of your tent; He will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah

<sup>6</sup> The righteous will look on with awe and will ridicule him:

<sup>7</sup> "Here is the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, taking refuge in his destructive behavior."

<sup>8</sup> But I am like a flourishing olive tree in the house of God; I trust in God's faithful love forever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> I will praise You forever for what You have done. In the presence of Your

faithful people, I will put my hope in Your name, for it is good.

**53** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: on Mahalath. A Davidic Maskil. The fool says in his heart, "God does not exist." They are corrupt, and they do vile deeds. There is no one who does good.

<sup>2</sup> God looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise and who seeks God.

<sup>3</sup> Everyone has turned aside; they have all become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.

<sup>4</sup> Will evildoers never understand? They consume My people as they consume bread; they do not call on God.

<sup>5</sup> Then they will be filled with terror--terror like no other--because God will scatter the bones of those who besiege you. You will put them to shame, for God has rejected them.

<sup>6</sup> Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come from Zion! When God restores His captive people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

**54** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: with stringed instruments. A Davidic Maskil. When the Ziphites went and said to Saul, "Is David not hiding among us?" God, save me by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might!

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

<sup>3</sup> For strangers rise up against me, and violent men seek my life. They have no regard for God. Selah

<sup>4</sup> God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my life.

<sup>5</sup> He will repay my adversaries for their evil. Because of Your faithfulness, annihilate them.

<sup>6</sup> I will sacrifice a freewill offering to You. I will praise Your name, LORD, because it is good.

<sup>7</sup> For He has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked down on my enemies.

**55** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: with stringed instruments. A Davidic Maskil. God, listen to my prayer and do not ignore my plea for help.

<sup>2</sup> Pay attention to me and answer me. I am restless and in turmoil with my complaint,

<sup>3</sup> because of the enemy's voice, because of the pressure of the wicked. For they bring down disaster on me and harass me in anger.

<sup>4</sup> My heart shudders within me; terrors of death sweep over me.

<sup>5</sup> Fear and trembling grip me; horror has overwhelmed me.

<sup>6</sup> I said, "If only I had wings like a dove!  
I would fly away and find rest.

<sup>7</sup> How far away I would flee; I would  
stay in the wilderness. Selah

<sup>8</sup> I would hurry to my shelter from the  
raging wind and the storm."

<sup>9</sup> Lord, confuse and confound their  
speech, for I see violence and strife in  
the city;

<sup>10</sup> day and night they make the rounds  
on its walls. Crime and trouble are within  
it;

<sup>11</sup> destruction is inside it; oppression  
and deceit never leave its marketplace.

<sup>12</sup> Now, it is not an enemy who insults  
me--otherwise I could bear it; it is not a  
foe who rises up against me--otherwise I  
could hide from him.

<sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man who is my peer,  
my companion and good friend!

<sup>14</sup> We used to have close fellowship; we walked with the crowd into the house of God.

<sup>15</sup> Let death take them by surprise; let them go down to Sheol alive, because evil is in their homes and within them.

<sup>16</sup> But I call to God, and the LORD will save me.

<sup>17</sup> I complain and groan morning, noon, and night, and He hears my voice.

<sup>18</sup> Though many are against me, He will redeem me from my battle unharmed.

<sup>19</sup> God, the One enthroned from long ago, will hear, and will humiliate them  
Selah because they do not change and do not fear God.

<sup>20</sup> He acts violently against those at peace with him; he violates his covenant.

<sup>21</sup> His buttery words are smooth, but war is in his heart. His words are softer than oil, but they are drawn swords.



<sup>22</sup> Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will support you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

<sup>23</sup> You, God, will bring them down to the pit of destruction; men of bloodshed and treachery will not live out half their days. But I will trust in You.

**56** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to "A Silent Dove Far Away." A Davidic Miktam. When the Philistines seized him in Gath. Be gracious to me, God, for man tramples me; he fights and oppresses me all day long.

<sup>2</sup> My adversaries trample me all day, for many arrogantly fight against me.

<sup>3</sup> When I am afraid, I will trust in You.

<sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

<sup>5</sup> They twist my words all day long; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

<sup>6</sup> They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps while they wait to take my life.

<sup>7</sup> Will they escape in spite of such sin? God, bring down the nations in wrath.

<sup>8</sup> You Yourself have recorded my wanderings. Put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your records?

<sup>9</sup> Then my enemies will retreat on the day when I call. This I know: 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 will not fear. What can man do to me?

<sup>12</sup> I am obligated by vows to You, God; I will make my thank offerings to You.

<sup>13</sup> For You delivered me from death, even my feet from stumbling, to walk before God in the light of life.

**57** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: "Do Not Destroy." A Davidic Mikdam.

When he fled before Saul into the cave.  
Be gracious to me, God, be gracious to me, for I take refuge in You. I will seek refuge in the shadow of Your wings until danger passes.

<sup>2</sup> I call to God Most High, to God who fulfills His purpose for me.

<sup>3</sup> He reaches down from heaven and saves me, challenging the one who tramples me. Selah God sends His faithful love and truth.

<sup>4</sup> I am in the midst of lions; I lie down with those who devour men. Their teeth are spears and arrows; their tongues are sharp swords.

<sup>5</sup> God, be exalted above the heavens; let Your glory be above the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> They prepared a net for my steps; I was downcast. They dug a pit ahead of me, but they fell into it! Selah

<sup>7</sup> My heart is confident, God, my heart is confident. I will sing; I will sing praises.

<sup>8</sup> Wake up, my soul! Wake up, harp and lyre! I will wake up the dawn.

<sup>9</sup> I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

<sup>10</sup> For Your faithful love is as high as the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

<sup>11</sup> God, be exalted above the heavens; let Your glory be over the whole earth.

**58** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: "Do Not Destroy." A Davidic Miktam. Do you really speak righteously, you mighty ones? Do you judge people fairly?

<sup>2</sup> No, you practice injustice in your hearts; with your hands you weigh out violence in the land.

<sup>3</sup> The wicked go astray from the womb; liars err from birth.

<sup>4</sup> They have venom like the venom of a snake, like the deaf cobra that stops up its ears,

<sup>5</sup> that does not listen to the sound of the charmers who skillfully weave spells.

<sup>6</sup> God, knock the teeth out of their mouths; LORD, tear out the young lions' fangs.

<sup>7</sup> They will vanish like water that flows by; they will aim their useless arrows.

<sup>8</sup> Like a slug that moves along in slime, like a woman's miscarried child, they will not see the sun.

<sup>9</sup> Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns--whether green or burning--He will sweep them away.

<sup>10</sup> The righteous will rejoice when he sees the retribution; he will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> Then people will say, "Yes, there is a reward for the righteous! There is a God who judges on earth!"

**59** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: "Do Not Destroy." A Davidic Miktam.

When Saul sent agents to watch the

house and kill him. Deliver me from my enemies, my God; protect me from those who rise up against me.

<sup>2</sup> Deliver me from those who practice sin, and save me from men of bloodshed.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, look! They set an ambush for me. Powerful men attack me, but not because of any sin or rebellion of mine.

<sup>4</sup> For no fault of mine, they run and take up a position. Awake to help me, and take notice.

<sup>5</sup> You, LORD God of Hosts, God of Israel, rise up to punish all the nations; do not show grace to any wicked traitors. Selah

<sup>6</sup> They return at evening, snarling like dogs and prowling around the city.

<sup>7</sup> Look, they spew from their mouths--sharp words from their lips. "For who," they say, "will hear?"

<sup>8</sup> But You laugh at them, LORD; You ridicule all the nations.

<sup>9</sup> I will keep watch for You, my strength, because God is my stronghold.

<sup>10</sup> My faithful God will come to meet me; God will let me look down on my adversaries.

<sup>11</sup> Do not kill them; otherwise, my people will forget. By Your power, make them homeless wanderers and bring them down, Lord, our shield.

<sup>12</sup> The sin of their mouths is the word of their lips, so let them be caught in their pride. They utter curses and lies.

<sup>13</sup> Consume them in rage; consume them until they are gone. Then they will know to the ends of the earth that God rules over Jacob. Selah

<sup>14</sup> And they return at evening, snarling like dogs and prowling around the city.

<sup>15</sup> They scavenge for food; they growl if they are not satisfied.

<sup>16</sup> But I will sing of Your strength and will joyfully proclaim Your faithful love

in the morning. For You have been a stronghold for me, a refuge in my day of trouble.

<sup>17</sup> To You, my strength, I sing praises, because God is my stronghold--my faithful God.

**60** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to "The Lily of Testimony." A Davidic Miktam for teaching. When he fought with Aram-naharaim and Aram-zobah, and Joab returned and struck Edom in the Valley of Salt, killing 12,000. God, You have rejected us; You have broken out against us; You have been angry. Restore us!

<sup>2</sup> You have shaken the land and split it open. Heal its fissures, for it shudders.

<sup>3</sup> You have made Your people suffer hardship; You have given us a wine to drink that made us stagger.



<sup>4</sup> You have given a signal flag to those who fear You, so that they can flee before the archers. Selah

<sup>5</sup> Save with Your right hand, and answer me, so that those You love may be rescued.

<sup>6</sup> God has spoken in His sanctuary: "I will triumph! I will divide up Shechem. I will apportion the Valley of Succoth.

<sup>7</sup> Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is Mine, and Ephraim is My helmet; Judah is My scepter.

<sup>8</sup> Moab is My washbasin; on Edom I throw My sandal. 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> Is it not You, God, who have rejected us? God, You do not march out with our armies.

<sup>11</sup> Give us aid against the foe, for human help is worthless.

<sup>12</sup> With God we will perform valiantly;  
He will trample our foes.

**61** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: on  
stringed instruments. Davidic.  
God, hear my cry; pay attention to my  
prayer.

<sup>2</sup> I call to You from the ends of the earth  
when my heart is without strength. Lead  
me to a rock that is high above me,

<sup>3</sup> for You have been a refuge for me, a  
strong tower in the face of the enemy.

<sup>4</sup> I will live in Your tent forever and take  
refuge under the shelter of Your wings.  
Selah

<sup>5</sup> God, You have heard my vows; You  
have given a heritage to those who fear  
Your name.

<sup>6</sup> Add days to the king's life; may his  
years span many generations.

<sup>7</sup> May he sit enthroned before God  
forever; appoint faithful love and truth  
to guard him.

<sup>8</sup> Then I will continually sing of Your name, fulfilling my vows day by day.

**62** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to Jeduthun. A Davidic psalm. I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him.

<sup>2</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken.

<sup>3</sup> How long will you threaten a man? Will all of you attack as if he were a leaning wall or a tottering stone fence?

<sup>4</sup> They only plan to bring him down from his high position. They take pleasure in lying; they bless with their mouths, but they curse inwardly. Selah

<sup>5</sup> Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from Him.

<sup>6</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will not be shaken.

<sup>7</sup> My salvation and glory depend on God; my strong rock, my refuge, is in God.

<sup>8</sup> Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts before Him. God is our refuge. Selah

<sup>9</sup> Men are only a vapor; exalted men, an illusion. On a balance scale, they go up; together they weigh less than a vapor.

<sup>10</sup> Place no trust in oppression, or false hope in robbery. If wealth increases, pay no attention to it.

<sup>11</sup> God has spoken once; I have heard this twice: strength belongs to God,

<sup>12</sup> and faithful love belongs to You, LORD. For You repay each according to his works.

**63** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. When he was in the Wilderness of Judah. God, You are my God; I eagerly seek You. I thirst for You; my body faints for You in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.

<sup>2</sup> So I gaze on You in the sanctuary to see Your strength and Your glory.

<sup>3</sup> My lips will glorify You because Your faithful love is better than life.

<sup>4</sup> So I will praise You as long as I live; at Your name, I will lift up my hands.

<sup>5</sup> You satisfy me as with rich food; my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

<sup>6</sup> When, on my bed, I think of You, I meditate on You during the night watches

<sup>7</sup> because You are my help; I will rejoice in the shadow of Your wings.

<sup>8</sup> I follow close to You; Your right hand holds on to me.

<sup>9</sup> But those who seek to destroy my life will go into the depths of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> They will be given over to the power of the sword; they will become the jackals' prey.

<sup>11</sup> But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by Him will boast, for the mouths of liars will be shut.

**64** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. God, hear my voice when I complain. Protect my life from the terror of the enemy.

<sup>2</sup> Hide me from the scheming of the wicked, from the mob of evildoers,

<sup>3</sup> who sharpen their tongues like swords and aim bitter words like arrows,

<sup>4</sup> shooting from concealed places at the innocent. They shoot at him suddenly and are not afraid.

<sup>5</sup> They encourage each other in an evil plan; they talk about hiding traps and say, "Who will see them?"

<sup>6</sup> They devise crimes and say, "We have perfected a secret plan." The inner man and the heart are mysterious.

<sup>7</sup> But God will shoot them with arrows; suddenly, they will be wounded.

<sup>8</sup> They will be made to stumble; their own tongues work against them. All who see them will shake their heads.

<sup>9</sup> Then everyone will fear and will tell about God's work, for they will understand what He has done.

<sup>10</sup> The righteous rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in Him; all the upright in heart offer praise.

**65** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. A song. Praise is rightfully Yours, God, in Zion; vows to You will be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer.

<sup>3</sup> Iniquities overwhelm me; only You can atone for our rebellions.

<sup>4</sup> How happy is the one You choose and bring near to live in Your courts! We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple.

<sup>5</sup> You answer us in righteousness, with awe-inspiring works, God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the distant seas;

<sup>6</sup> You establish the mountains by Your power, robed with strength;

<sup>7</sup> You silence the roar of the seas, the roar of their waves, and the tumult of the nations.

<sup>8</sup> Those who live far away are awed by Your signs; You make east and west shout for joy.

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly, enriching it greatly. God's stream is filled with water, for You prepare the earth in this way, providing people with grain.

<sup>10</sup> You soften it with showers and bless its growth, soaking its furrows and leveling its ridges.

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with Your goodness; Your ways overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup> The wilderness pastures overflow, and the hills are robed with joy.



<sup>13</sup> The pastures are clothed with flocks, and the valleys covered with grain. They shout in triumph; indeed, they sing.

**66** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A song. A psalm. Shout joyfully to God, all the earth!

<sup>2</sup> Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious.

<sup>3</sup> Say to God, "How awe-inspiring are Your works! Your enemies will cringe before You because of Your great strength.

<sup>4</sup> All the earth will worship You and sing praise to You. They will sing praise to Your name." Selah

<sup>5</sup> Come and see the works of God; His acts toward mankind are awe-inspiring.

<sup>6</sup> He turned the sea into dry land, and they crossed the river on foot. There we rejoiced in Him.

<sup>7</sup> He rules forever by His might; He keeps His eye on the nations. The

rebellious should not exalt themselves.  
Selah

<sup>8</sup> Praise our God, you peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> He keeps us alive and does not allow our feet to slip.

<sup>10</sup> For You, God, tested us; You refined us as silver is refined.

<sup>11</sup> You lured us into a trap; You placed burdens on our backs.

<sup>12</sup> You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but You brought us out to abundance.

<sup>13</sup> I will enter Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows

<sup>14</sup> that my lips promised and my mouth spoke during my distress.

<sup>15</sup> I will offer You fattened sheep as burnt offerings, with the fragrant smoke of rams; I will sacrifice oxen with goats.  
Selah

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all who fear God,  
and I will tell what He has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> I cried out to Him with my mouth,  
and praise was on my tongue.

<sup>18</sup> If I had been aware of malice in my  
heart, the Lord would not have listened.

<sup>19</sup> However, God has listened; He has  
paid attention to the sound of my prayer.

<sup>20</sup> May God be praised! He has not  
turned away my prayer or turned His  
faithful love from me.

**67** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: with  
stringed instruments. A psalm.  
A song. May God be gracious to us and  
bless us; look on us with favor Selah

<sup>2</sup> so that Your way may be known on  
earth, Your salvation among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise You, God; let all  
the peoples praise You.

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations rejoice and shout  
for joy, for You judge the peoples with

fairness and lead the nations on earth.

Selah

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise You, God, let all the peoples praise You.

<sup>6</sup> The earth has produced its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

<sup>7</sup> God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him.

**68** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. A song. God arises. His enemies scatter, and those who hate Him flee from His presence.

<sup>2</sup> As smoke is blown away, so You blow them away. As wax melts before the fire, so the wicked are destroyed before God.

<sup>3</sup> But the righteous are glad; they rejoice before God and celebrate with joy.

<sup>4</sup> Sing to God! Sing praises to His name. Exalt Him who rides on the clouds--His name is Yahweh--and rejoice before Him.

<sup>5</sup> A father of the fatherless and a champion of widows is God in His holy dwelling.

<sup>6</sup> God provides homes for those who are deserted. He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a scorched land.

<sup>7</sup> God, when You went out before Your people, when You marched through the desert, Selah

<sup>8</sup> the earth trembled, and the skies poured down rain before God, the God of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup> You, God, showered abundant rain; You revived Your inheritance when it languished.

<sup>10</sup> Your people settled in it; by Your goodness You provided for the poor, God.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord gave the command; a great company of women brought the good news:

<sup>12</sup> "The kings of the armies flee--they flee!" She who stays at home divides the spoil.

<sup>13</sup> While you lie among the sheepfolds, the wings of a dove are covered with silver, and its feathers with glistening gold.

<sup>14</sup> When the Almighty scattered kings in the land, it snowed on Zalmon.

<sup>15</sup> Mount Bashan is God's towering mountain; Mount Bashan is a mountain of many peaks.

<sup>16</sup> Why gaze with envy, you mountain peaks, at the mountain God desired for His dwelling? The LORD will live there forever!

<sup>17</sup> God's chariots are tens of thousands, thousands and thousands; the Lord is among them in the sanctuary as He was at Sinai.

<sup>18</sup> You ascended to the heights, taking away captives; You received gifts from

people, even from the rebellious, so that the LORD God might live there .

<sup>19</sup> May the Lord be praised! Day after day He bears our burdens; God is our salvation. Selah

<sup>20</sup> Our God is a God of salvation, and escape from death belongs to the Lord GOD.

<sup>21</sup> Surely God crushes the heads of His enemies, the hairy head of one who goes on in his guilty acts.

<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> so that your foot may wade in blood and your dogs' tongues may have their share from the enemies."

<sup>24</sup> People have seen Your procession, God, the procession of my God, my King, in the sanctuary.

<sup>25</sup> Singers lead the way, with musicians following; among them are young women playing tambourines.

<sup>26</sup> Praise God in the assemblies; praise the LORD from the fountain of Israel.

<sup>27</sup> There is Benjamin, the youngest, leading them, the rulers of Judah in their assembly, the rulers of Zebulun, the rulers of Naphtali.

<sup>28</sup> Your God has decreed your strength. Show Your strength, God, You who have acted on our behalf.

<sup>29</sup> Because of Your temple at Jerusalem, kings will bring tribute to You.

<sup>30</sup> Rebuke the beast in the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples. Trample underfoot those with bars of silver. Scatter the peoples who take pleasure in war.

<sup>31</sup> Ambassadors will come from Egypt; Cush will stretch out its hands to God.



<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; sing praise to the Lord, Selah

<sup>33</sup> to Him who rides in the ancient, highest heavens. Look, He thunders with His powerful voice!

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God. His majesty is over Israel, His power among the clouds.

<sup>35</sup> God, You are awe-inspiring in Your sanctuaries. The God of Israel gives power and strength to His people. May God be praised!

**69** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to "The Lilies." Davidic. Save me, God, for the water has risen to my neck.

<sup>2</sup> I have sunk in deep mud, and there is no footing; I have come into deep waters, and a flood sweeps over me.

<sup>3</sup> I am weary from my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.

<sup>4</sup> Those who hate me without cause are more numerous than the hairs of my

head; my deceitful enemies, who would destroy me, are powerful. Though I did not steal, I must repay.

<sup>5</sup> God, You know my foolishness, and my guilty acts are not hidden from You.

<sup>6</sup> Do not let those who put their hope in You be disgraced because of me, Lord GOD of Hosts; do not let those who seek You be humiliated because of me, God of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> For I have endured insults because of You, and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup> I have become a stranger to my brothers and a foreigner to my mother's sons

<sup>9</sup> because zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult You have fallen on me.

<sup>10</sup> I mourned and fasted, but it brought me insults.

<sup>11</sup> I wore sackcloth as my clothing, and I was a joke to them.

<sup>12</sup> Those who sit at the city gate talk about me, and drunkards make up songs about me.

<sup>13</sup> But as for me, LORD, my prayer to You is for a time of favor. In Your abundant, faithful love, God, answer me with Your sure salvation.

<sup>14</sup> Rescue me from the miry mud; don't let me sink. Let me be rescued from those who hate me, and from the deep waters.

<sup>15</sup> Don't let the floodwaters sweep over me or the deep swallow me up; don't let the Pit close its mouth over me.

<sup>16</sup> Answer me, LORD, for Your faithful love is good; in keeping with Your great compassion, turn to me.

<sup>17</sup> Don't hide Your face from Your servant, for I am in distress. Answer me quickly!

<sup>18</sup> Draw near to me and redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies.

<sup>19</sup> You know the insults I endure--my shame and disgrace. You are aware of all my adversaries.

<sup>20</sup> Insults have broken my heart, and I am in despair. I waited for sympathy, but there was none; for comforters, but found no one.

<sup>21</sup> Instead, they gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

<sup>22</sup> Let their table set before them be a snare, and let it be a trap for their allies.

<sup>23</sup> Let their eyes grow too dim to see, and let their loins continually shake.

<sup>24</sup> Pour out Your rage on them, and let Your burning anger overtake them.

<sup>25</sup> Make their fortification desolate; may no one live in their tents.

<sup>26</sup> For they persecute the one You struck and talk about the pain of those You wounded.

<sup>27</sup> Add guilt to their guilt; do not let them share in Your righteousness.

<sup>28</sup> Let them be erased from the book of life and not be recorded with the righteous.

<sup>29</sup> But as for me--poor and in pain--let Your salvation protect me, God.

<sup>30</sup> I will praise God's name with song and exalt Him with thanksgiving.

<sup>31</sup> That will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with horns and hooves.

<sup>32</sup> The humble will see it and rejoice. You who seek God, take heart!

<sup>33</sup> For the LORD listens to the needy and does not despise His own 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. They will live there and possess it.

<sup>36</sup> The descendants of His servants will inherit it, and those who love His name will live in it.

**70** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. Davidic.  
To bring remembrance. God,  
deliver me. Hurry to help me, LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Let those who seek my life be disgraced and confounded; let those who wish me harm be driven back and humiliated.

<sup>3</sup> Let those who say, "Aha, aha!" retreat because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup> Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love Your salvation continually say, "God is great!"

<sup>5</sup> I am afflicted and needy; hurry to me, God. You are my help and my deliverer; LORD, do not delay.

**71** <sup>1</sup> LORD, I seek refuge in You; never let me be disgraced.

<sup>2</sup> In Your justice, rescue and deliver me; listen closely to me and save me.

<sup>3</sup> Be a rock of refuge for me, where I can always go. Give the command to save me, for You are my rock and fortress.

<sup>4</sup> Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and oppressive.

<sup>5</sup> For You are my hope, Lord GOD, my confidence from my youth.

<sup>6</sup> I have leaned on You from birth; You took me from my mother's womb. My praise is always about You.

<sup>7</sup> I have become an ominous sign to many, but You are my strong refuge.

<sup>8</sup> My mouth is full of praise and honor to You all day long.

<sup>9</sup> Don't discard me in my old age: as my strength fails, do not abandon me.

<sup>10</sup> For my enemies talk about me, and those who spy on me plot together,

<sup>11</sup> saying, "God has abandoned him; chase him and catch him, for there is no one to rescue him."

<sup>12</sup> God, do not be far from me; my God, hurry to help me.

<sup>13</sup> May my adversaries be disgraced and confounded; may those who seek my harm be covered with disgrace and humiliation.

<sup>14</sup> But I will hope continually and will praise You more and more.

<sup>15</sup> My mouth will tell about Your righteousness and Your salvation all day long, though I cannot sum them up.

<sup>16</sup> I come because of the mighty acts of the Lord GOD; I will proclaim Your righteousness, Yours alone.

<sup>17</sup> God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim Your wonderful works.

<sup>18</sup> Even when I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me. Then I will proclaim Your power to another generation, Your strength to all who are to come.



<sup>19</sup> Your righteousness reaches heaven,  
God, You who have done great things;  
God, who is like You?

<sup>20</sup> You caused me to experience many  
troubles and misfortunes, but You will  
revive me again. You will bring me up  
again, even from the depths of the earth.

<sup>21</sup> You will increase my honor and  
comfort me once again.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, with a lute I will praise You  
for Your faithfulness, my God; I will sing  
to You with a harp, Holy One of Israel.

<sup>23</sup> My lips will shout for joy when I  
sing praise to You, because You have  
redeemed me.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore, my tongue will proclaim  
Your righteousness all day long, for those  
who seek my harm will be disgraced and  
confounded.

**72** <sup>1</sup> Solomonic. God, give Your  
justice to the king and Your  
righteousness to the king's son.

<sup>2</sup> He will judge Your people with righteousness and Your afflicted ones with justice.

<sup>3</sup> May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> May he vindicate the afflicted among the people, help the poor, and crush the oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> May he continue 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 cut grass, like spring showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup> May the righteous flourish in his days, and prosperity abound until the moon is no more.

<sup>8</sup> And may he rule from sea to sea and from the Euphrates to the ends of the earth.

<sup>9</sup> May desert tribes kneel before him and his enemies lick the dust.

<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and the coasts and islands bring tribute, the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

<sup>11</sup> And let all kings bow down to him, all nations serve him.

<sup>12</sup> For he will rescue the poor who cry out and the afflicted who have no helper.

<sup>13</sup> He will have pity on the poor and helpless and save the lives of the poor.

<sup>14</sup> He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious in his sight.

<sup>15</sup> May he live long! May gold from Sheba be given to him. May prayer be offered for him continually, and may he be blessed all day long.

<sup>16</sup> May there be plenty of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of the mountains. May its crops be like Lebanon. May people flourish in the cities like the grass of the field.

<sup>17</sup> May his name endure forever; as long as the sun shines, may his fame increase. May all nations be blessed by him and call him blessed.

<sup>18</sup> May the LORD God, the God of Israel, be praised, who alone does wonders.

<sup>19</sup> May His glorious name be praised forever; the whole earth is filled with His glory. Amen and amen.

<sup>20</sup> The prayers of David son of Jesse are concluded.

**73** <sup>1</sup> A psalm of Asaph. God is indeed good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet almost slipped; my steps nearly went astray.

<sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant; I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

<sup>4</sup> They have an easy time until they die, and their bodies are well-fed.

<sup>5</sup> They are not in trouble like others; they are not afflicted like most people.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, pride is their necklace, and violence covers them like a garment.

<sup>7</sup> Their eyes bulge out from fatness; the imaginations of their hearts run wild.

<sup>8</sup> They mock, and they speak maliciously; they arrogantly threaten oppression.

<sup>9</sup> They set their mouths against heaven, and their tongues strut across the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore His people turn to them and drink in their overflowing waters.

<sup>11</sup> They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High know everything?"

<sup>12</sup> Look at them--the wicked! They are always at ease, and they increase their wealth.

<sup>13</sup> Did I purify my heart and wash my hands in innocence for nothing?

<sup>14</sup> For I am afflicted all day long, and punished every morning.

<sup>15</sup> If I had decided to say these things aloud , I would have betrayed Your people.

<sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it seemed hopeless

<sup>17</sup> until I entered God's sanctuary. Then I understood their destiny.

<sup>18</sup> Indeed You put them in slippery places; You make them fall into ruin.

<sup>19</sup> How suddenly they become a desolation! They come to an end, swept away by terrors.

<sup>20</sup> Like one waking from a dream, Lord, when arising, You will despise their image.

<sup>21</sup> When I became embittered and my innermost being was wounded,

<sup>22</sup> I was a fool and didn't understand; I was an unthinking animal toward You.

<sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with You; You hold my right hand.

<sup>24</sup> You guide me with Your counsel, and afterwards You will take me up in glory.

<sup>25</sup> Whom do I have in heaven but You? And I desire nothing on earth but You.

<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, my portion forever.

<sup>27</sup> Those far from You will certainly perish; You destroy all who are unfaithful to You.

<sup>28</sup> But as for me, God's presence is my good. I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, so I can tell about all You do.

**74** <sup>1</sup> A Maskil of Asaph. Why have You rejected us forever, God? Why does Your anger burn against the sheep of Your pasture?

<sup>2</sup> Remember Your congregation, which You purchased long ago and redeemed as the tribe for Your own possession. Remember Mount Zion where You dwell.

<sup>3</sup> Make Your way to the everlasting ruins, to all that the enemy has destroyed in the sanctuary.

<sup>4</sup> Your adversaries roared in the meeting place where You met with us. They set up their emblems as signs.

<sup>5</sup> It was like men in a thicket of trees, wielding axes,

<sup>6</sup> then smashing all the carvings with hatchets and picks.

<sup>7</sup> They set Your sanctuary on fire; they utterly desecrated the dwelling place of Your name.

<sup>8</sup> They said in their hearts, "Let us oppress them relentlessly." They burned down every place throughout the land where God met with us.

<sup>9</sup> We don't see any signs for us. There is no longer a prophet. And none of us knows how long this will last.

<sup>10</sup> God, how long will the foe mock? Will the enemy insult Your name forever?



<sup>11</sup> Why do You hold back Your hand?  
Stretch out Your right hand and destroy  
them !

<sup>12</sup> God my king is from ancient times,  
performing saving acts on the earth.

<sup>13</sup> You divided the sea with Your  
strength; You smashed the heads of the  
sea monsters in the waters;

<sup>14</sup> You crushed the heads of Leviathan;  
You fed him to the creatures of the  
desert.

<sup>15</sup> You opened up springs and streams;  
You dried up ever-flowing rivers.

<sup>16</sup> The day is Yours, also the night; You  
established the moon and the sun.

<sup>17</sup> You set all the boundaries of the  
earth; You made summer and winter.

<sup>18</sup> Remember this: the enemy has  
mocked the LORD, and a foolish people  
has insulted Your name.

<sup>19</sup> Do not give the life of Your dove to beasts; do not forget the lives of Your poor people forever.

<sup>20</sup> Consider the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of violence.

<sup>21</sup> Do not let the oppressed turn away in shame; let the poor and needy praise Your name.

<sup>22</sup> Arise, God, defend Your cause! Remember the insults that fools bring against You all day long.

<sup>23</sup> Do not forget the clamor of Your adversaries, the tumult of Your opponents that goes up constantly.

**75** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: "Do Not Destroy." A psalm of Asaph. A song. We give thanks to You, God; we give thanks to You, for Your name is near. People tell about Your wonderful works.

<sup>2</sup> "When I choose a time, I will judge fairly.

<sup>3</sup> When the earth and all its inhabitants shake, I am the One who steadies 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 against heaven or speak arrogantly.'"

<sup>6</sup> Exaltation does not come from the east, the west, or the desert,

<sup>7</sup> for God is the judge: He brings down one and exalts another.

<sup>8</sup> For there is a cup in the LORD's hand, full of wine blended with spices, and He pours from it. All the wicked of the earth will drink, draining it to the dregs.

<sup>9</sup> As for me, I will tell about Him forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob.

<sup>10</sup> "I will cut off all the horns of the wicked, but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up."

**76** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: with stringed instruments. A psalm of Asaph. A song. God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

<sup>2</sup> His tent is in Salem, His dwelling place in Zion.

<sup>3</sup> There He shatters the bow's flaming arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. Selah

<sup>4</sup> You are resplendent and majestic coming down from the mountains of prey.

<sup>5</sup> The brave-hearted have been plundered; they have slipped into their final sleep. None of the warriors was able to lift a hand.

<sup>6</sup> At Your rebuke, God of Jacob, both chariot and horse lay still.

<sup>7</sup> And You--You are to be feared. When You are angry, who can stand before You?

<sup>8</sup> From heaven You pronounced judgment. The earth feared and grew quiet

<sup>9</sup> when God rose up to judge and to save all the lowly of the earth. Selah

<sup>10</sup> Even human wrath will praise You; You will clothe Yourself with their remaining wrath.

<sup>11</sup> Make and keep your vows to the LORD your God; let all who are around Him bring tribute to the awe-inspiring One.

<sup>12</sup> He humbles the spirit of leaders; He is feared by the kings of the earth.

**77** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to Jeduthun. Of Asaph. A psalm. I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and He will hear me.

<sup>2</sup> In my day of trouble I sought the Lord. My hands were lifted up all night long; I refused to be comforted.

<sup>3</sup> I think of God; I groan; I meditate; my spirit becomes weak. Selah

<sup>4</sup> You have kept me from closing my eyes; I am troubled and cannot speak.

<sup>5</sup> I consider days of old, years long past.

<sup>6</sup> At night I remember my music; I meditate in my heart, and my spirit ponders.

<sup>7</sup> "Will the Lord reject forever and never again show favor?

<sup>8</sup> Has His faithful love ceased forever? Is His promise at an end for all generations?

<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger withheld His compassion?"  
Selah

<sup>10</sup> So I say, "It is my sorrow that the right hand of the Most High has changed."

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the LORD's works; yes, I will remember Your ancient wonders.

<sup>12</sup> I will reflect on all You have done and meditate on Your actions.

<sup>13</sup> God, Your way is holy. What god is great like God?

<sup>14</sup> You are the God who works wonders; You revealed Your strength among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup> With power You redeemed Your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

<sup>16</sup> The waters saw You, God. The waters saw You; they trembled. Even the depths shook.

<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured down water. The storm clouds thundered; Your arrows flashed back and forth.

<sup>18</sup> The sound of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; lightning lit up the world. The earth shook and quaked.

<sup>19</sup> Your way went through the sea, and Your path through the great waters, but 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. My people,  
hear my instruction; listen to  
what I say.

<sup>2</sup> I will declare wise sayings; I will speak  
mysteries from the past--

<sup>3</sup> things we have heard and known and  
that our fathers have passed down to us.

<sup>4</sup> We must not hide them from  
their children, but must tell a future  
generation the praises of the LORD, His  
might, and the wonderful works He has  
performed.

<sup>5</sup> He established a testimony in Jacob  
and set up a law in Israel, which He  
commanded our fathers to teach to their  
children

<sup>6</sup> so that a future generation--children  
yet to be born--might know. They were  
to rise and tell their children

<sup>7</sup> so that they might put their  
confidence in God and not forget God's  
works, but keep His commandments.



<sup>8</sup> Then they would not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not loyal and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

<sup>9</sup> The Ephraimite archers turned back on the day of battle.

<sup>10</sup> They did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by His law.

<sup>11</sup> They forgot what He had done, the wonderful works He had shown them.

<sup>12</sup> He worked wonders in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, the region of Zoan.

<sup>13</sup> He split the sea and brought them across; the water stood firm like a wall.

<sup>14</sup> He led them with a cloud by day and with a fiery light throughout the night.

<sup>15</sup> He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as abundant as the depths.

<sup>16</sup> He brought streams out of the stone and made water flow down like rivers.

<sup>17</sup> But they continued to sin against Him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

<sup>18</sup> They deliberately tested God, demanding the food they craved.

<sup>19</sup> They spoke against God, saying, "Is God able to provide food in the wilderness?"

<sup>20</sup> Look! He struck the rock and water gushed out; torrents overflowed. But can He also provide bread or furnish meat for His people?"

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, the LORD heard and became furious; then fire broke out against Jacob, and anger flared up against Israel

<sup>22</sup> because they did not believe God or rely on His salvation.

<sup>23</sup> He gave a command to the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven.

<sup>24</sup> He rained manna for them to eat; He gave them grain from heaven.

<sup>25</sup> People ate the bread of angels. He sent them an abundant supply of food.

<sup>26</sup> He made the east wind blow in the skies and drove the south wind by His might.

<sup>27</sup> He rained meat on them like dust, and winged birds like the sand of the seas.

<sup>28</sup> He made them fall in His camp, all around His tent.

<sup>29</sup> They ate and were completely satisfied, for He gave them what they craved.

<sup>30</sup> Before they had satisfied their desire, while the food was still in their mouths,

<sup>31</sup> God's anger flared up against them, and He killed some of their best men. He struck down Israel's choice young men.

<sup>32</sup> Despite all this, they kept sinning and did not believe His wonderful works.

<sup>33</sup> He made their days end in futility,  
their years in sudden disaster.

<sup>34</sup> When He killed some of them, the  
rest began to seek Him; they repented  
and searched for God.

<sup>35</sup> They remembered that God was  
their rock, the Most High God, their  
Redeemer.

<sup>36</sup> But they deceived Him with their  
mouths, they lied to Him with their  
tongues,

<sup>37</sup> their hearts were insincere toward  
Him, and they were unfaithful to His  
covenant.

<sup>38</sup> Yet He was compassionate; He  
atoned for their guilt and did not destroy  
them . He often turned His anger aside  
and did not unleash all His wrath.

<sup>39</sup> He remembered that they were only  
flesh, a wind that passes and does not  
return.

<sup>40</sup> How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert.

<sup>41</sup> They constantly tested God and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>42</sup> They did not remember His power shown on the day He redeemed them from the foe,

<sup>43</sup> when He performed His miraculous signs in Egypt and His marvels in the region of Zoan.

<sup>44</sup> He turned their rivers into blood, and they could not drink from their streams.

<sup>45</sup> He sent among them swarms of flies, which fed on them, and frogs, which devastated them.

<sup>46</sup> He gave their crops to the caterpillar and the fruit of their labor to the locust.

<sup>47</sup> He killed their vines with hail and their sycamore-fig trees with a flood.

<sup>48</sup> He handed over their livestock to hail and their cattle to lightning bolts.

<sup>49</sup> He sent His burning anger against them: fury, indignation, and calamity--a band of deadly messengers.

<sup>50</sup> He cleared a path for His anger. He did not spare them from death, but delivered their lives to the plague.

<sup>51</sup> He struck all the firstborn in Egypt, the first progeny of the tents of Ham.

<sup>52</sup> He led His people out like sheep and guided them like a flock in the wilderness.

<sup>53</sup> He led them safely, and they were not afraid; but the sea covered their enemies.

<sup>54</sup> He brought them to His holy land, to the mountain His right hand acquired.

<sup>55</sup> He drove out nations before them. He apportioned their inheritance by lot and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

<sup>56</sup> But they rebelliously tested the Most High God, for they did not keep His decrees.

<sup>57</sup> They treacherously turned away like their fathers; they became warped like a faulty bow.

<sup>58</sup> They enraged Him with their high places and provoked His jealousy with their carved images.

<sup>59</sup> God heard and became furious; He completely rejected Israel.

<sup>60</sup> He abandoned the tabernacle at Shiloh, the tent where He resided among men.

<sup>61</sup> He gave up His strength to captivity and His splendor to the hand of a foe.

<sup>62</sup> He surrendered His people to the sword because He was enraged with His heritage.

<sup>63</sup> Fire consumed His chosen young men, and His young women had no wedding songs.

<sup>64</sup> His priests fell by the sword, but the widows could not lament.

<sup>65</sup> Then the Lord awoke as if from sleep, like a warrior from the effects of wine.

<sup>66</sup> He beat back His foes; He gave them lasting shame.

<sup>67</sup> He rejected the tent of Joseph and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim.

<sup>68</sup> He chose instead the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which He loved.

<sup>69</sup> He built His sanctuary like the heights, like the earth that He established forever.

<sup>70</sup> He chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds;

<sup>71</sup> He brought him from tending ewes to be shepherd over His people Jacob--over Israel, His inheritance.

<sup>72</sup> He shepherded them with a pure heart and guided them with his skillful hands.

**79** <sup>1</sup> A psalm of Asaph. God, the nations have invaded Your



inheritance, desecrated Your holy temple, and turned Jerusalem into ruins.

<sup>2</sup> They gave the corpses of Your servants to the birds of the sky for food, the flesh of Your godly ones to the beasts of the earth.

<sup>3</sup> They poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them .

<sup>4</sup> We have become an object of reproach to our neighbors, a source of mockery and ridicule to those around us.

<sup>5</sup> How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy keep burning like fire?

<sup>6</sup> Pour out Your wrath on the nations that don't acknowledge You, on the kingdoms that don't call on Your name,

<sup>7</sup> for they have devoured Jacob and devastated his homeland.

<sup>8</sup> Do not hold past sins against us; let Your compassion come to us quickly, for we have become weak.

<sup>9</sup> God of our salvation, help us--for the glory of Your name. Deliver us and atone for our sins, because of Your name.

<sup>10</sup> Why should the nations ask, "Where is their God?" Before our eyes, let vengeance for the shed blood of Your servants be known among the nations.

<sup>11</sup> Let the groans of the prisoners reach You; according to Your great power, preserve those condemned to die.

<sup>12</sup> Pay back sevenfold to our neighbors the reproach they have hurled at You, Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Then we, Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will thank You forever; we will declare Your praise to generation after generation.

**80** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: according to "The Lilies." A testimony of

Asaph. A psalm. Listen, Shepherd of Israel, who guides Joseph like a flock; You who sit enthroned on the cherubim, rise up

<sup>2</sup> at the head of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Rally Your power and come to save us.

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, God; look on us with favor, and we will be saved.

<sup>4</sup> LORD God of Hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

<sup>5</sup> You fed them the bread of tears and gave them a full measure of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup> You set us at strife with our neighbors; our enemies make fun of us.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, God of Hosts; look on us with favor, and we will be saved.

<sup>8</sup> You uprooted a vine from Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup> You cleared a place for it; it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered by its shade, and the mighty cedars with its branches.

<sup>11</sup> It sent out sprouts toward the Sea and shoots toward the River.

<sup>12</sup> Why have You broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its fruit?

<sup>13</sup> The boar from the forest gnaws at it, and creatures of the field feed on it.

<sup>14</sup> Return, God of Hosts. Look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine,

<sup>15</sup> the root Your right hand has planted, the shoot that You made strong for Yourself.

<sup>16</sup> It was cut down and burned up; they perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.

<sup>17</sup> Let Your hand be with the man at Your right hand, with the son of man You have made strong for Yourself.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will not turn away from You; revive us, and we will call on Your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, LORD God of Hosts; look on us with favor, and we will be saved.

**81** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: on the Gittith. Of Asaph. Sing for joy to God our strength; shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> Lift up a song--play the tambourine, the melodious lyre, and the harp.

<sup>3</sup> Blow the horn during the new moon and during the full moon, on the day of our feast.

<sup>4</sup> For this is a statute for Israel, a judgment of the God of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> He set it up as an ordinance for Joseph when He went throughout the land of Egypt. I heard an unfamiliar language:

<sup>6</sup> "I relieved his shoulder from the burden; his hands were freed from carrying the basket.

<sup>7</sup> You called out in distress, and I rescued you; I answered you from the thundercloud. I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah

<sup>8</sup> Listen, My people, and I will admonish you. Israel, if you would only listen to Me!

<sup>9</sup> There must not be a strange god among you; you must not bow down to a foreign god.

<sup>10</sup> I am Yahweh your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

<sup>11</sup> "But My people did not listen to Me; Israel did not obey Me.

<sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own plans.

<sup>13</sup> If only My people would listen to Me and Israel would follow My ways,

<sup>14</sup> I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their foes."

<sup>15</sup> Those who hate the LORD would pretend submission to Him; their doom would last forever.

<sup>16</sup> But He would feed Israel with the best wheat. "I would satisfy you with honey from the rock."

**82** <sup>1</sup> A psalm of Asaph. God has taken His place in the divine assembly; He judges among the gods:

<sup>2</sup> "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah

<sup>3</sup> Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute.

<sup>4</sup> Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the hand of the wicked."

<sup>5</sup> They do not know or understand; they wander in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup> I said, "You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High.

<sup>7</sup> However, you will die like men and fall like any other ruler."

<sup>8</sup> Rise up, God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to You.

**83** <sup>1</sup> A song. A psalm of Asaph. God, do not keep silent. Do not be deaf, God; do not be idle.

<sup>2</sup> See how Your enemies make an uproar; those who hate You have acted arrogantly.

<sup>3</sup> They devise clever schemes against Your people; they conspire against Your treasured ones.

<sup>4</sup> They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation so that Israel's name will no longer be remembered."

<sup>5</sup> For they have conspired with one mind; they form an alliance against You--

<sup>6</sup> the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites,

<sup>7</sup> Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre.



<sup>8</sup> Even Assyria has joined them; they lend support to the sons of Lot. Selah

<sup>9</sup> Deal with them as You did with Midian, as You did with Sisera and Jabin at the Kishon River.

<sup>10</sup> They were destroyed at En-dor; they became manure for the ground.

<sup>11</sup> Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, and all their tribal leaders like Zebah and Zalmunna,

<sup>12</sup> who said, "Let us seize God's pastures for ourselves."

<sup>13</sup> Make them like tumbleweed, my God, like straw before the wind.

<sup>14</sup> As fire burns a forest, as a flame blazes through mountains,

<sup>15</sup> so pursue them with Your tempest and terrify them with Your storm.

<sup>16</sup> Cover their faces with shame so that they will seek Your name, LORD.

<sup>17</sup> Let them be put to shame and terrified forever; let them perish in disgrace.

<sup>18</sup> May they know that You alone--whose name is Yahweh--are the Most High over all the earth.

**84** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director: on the Gittith. A psalm of the sons of Korah. How lovely is Your dwelling place, LORD of Hosts.

<sup>2</sup> I long and yearn for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even a sparrow finds a home, and a swallow, a nest for herself where she places her young--near Your altars, LORD of Hosts, my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> How happy are those who reside in Your house, who praise You continually.  
Selah

<sup>5</sup> Happy are the people whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

<sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a source of springwater; even the autumn rain will cover it with blessings.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength; each appears before God in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> LORD God of Hosts, hear my prayer; listen, God of Jacob. Selah

<sup>9</sup> Consider our shield, God; look on the face of Your anointed one.

<sup>10</sup> Better a day in Your courts than a thousand anywhere else . I would rather be at the door of the house of my God than to live in the tents of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield. The LORD gives grace and glory; He does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity.

<sup>12</sup> LORD of Hosts, happy is the person who trusts in You!

**85** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A psalm of the sons of Korah. LORD, You showed favor to Your land; You restored Jacob's prosperity.

<sup>2</sup> You took away Your people's guilt; You covered all their sin. Selah

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all Your fury; You turned from Your burning anger.

<sup>4</sup> Return to us, God of our salvation, and abandon Your displeasure with us.

<sup>5</sup> Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger for all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will You not revive us again so that Your people may rejoice in You?

<sup>7</sup> Show us Your faithful love, LORD, and give us Your salvation.

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what God will say; surely the LORD will declare peace to His

people, His godly ones, and not let them go back to foolish ways.

<sup>9</sup> His salvation is very near those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Faithful love and truth will join together; righteousness and peace will embrace.

<sup>11</sup> Truth will spring up from the earth, and righteousness will look down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> Also, the LORD will provide what is good, and our land will yield its crops.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before Him to prepare the way for His steps.

**86** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic prayer. Listen, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

<sup>2</sup> Protect my life, for I am faithful. You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You.

<sup>3</sup> Be gracious to me, Lord, for I call to You all day long.

<sup>4</sup> Bring joy to Your servant's life, since I set my hope on You, Lord.

<sup>5</sup> For You, Lord, are kind and ready to forgive, abundant in faithful love to all who call on You.

<sup>6</sup> LORD, hear my prayer; listen to my plea for mercy.

<sup>7</sup> I call on You in the day of my distress, for You will answer me.

<sup>8</sup> Lord, there is no one like You among the gods, and there are no works like Yours.

<sup>9</sup> All the nations You have made will come and bow down before You, Lord, and will honor Your name.

<sup>10</sup> For You are great and perform wonders; You alone are God.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me Your way, LORD, and I will live by Your truth. Give me an undivided mind to fear Your name.

<sup>12</sup> I will praise You with all my heart, Lord my God, and will honor Your name forever.

<sup>13</sup> For Your faithful love for me is great, and You deliver my life from the depths of Sheol.

<sup>14</sup> God, arrogant people have attacked me; a gang of ruthless men seeks my life. They have no regard for You.

<sup>15</sup> But You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abundant in faithful love and truth.

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me. Give Your strength to Your servant; save the son of Your female servant.

<sup>17</sup> Show me a sign of Your goodness; my enemies will see and be put to shame because You, LORD, have helped and comforted me.

**87** <sup>1</sup> A psalm of the sons of Korah.  
A song. His foundation is on the holy mountains.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious things are said about you, city of God. Selah

<sup>4</sup> "I will mention those who know Me: Rahab, Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Cush--each one was born there."

<sup>5</sup> And it will be said of Zion, "This one and that one were born in her." The Most High Himself will establish her.

<sup>6</sup> When He registers the peoples, the LORD will record, "This one was born there." Selah

<sup>7</sup> Singers and dancers alike will say , "All my springs are in you."

**88** <sup>1</sup> A song. A psalm of the sons of Korah. For the choir director: according to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite. LORD, God of my salvation, I cry out before You day and night.



<sup>2</sup> May my prayer reach Your presence;  
listen to my cry.

<sup>3</sup> For I have had enough troubles, and  
my life is near Sheol.

<sup>4</sup> I am counted among those going  
down to the Pit. I am like a man without  
strength,

<sup>5</sup> abandoned among the dead. I am like  
the slain lying in the grave, whom You no  
longer remember, and who are cut off  
from Your care.

<sup>6</sup> You have put me in the lowest part  
of the Pit, in the darkest places, in the  
depths.

<sup>7</sup> Your wrath weighs heavily on me;  
You have overwhelmed me with all Your  
waves. Selah

<sup>8</sup> You have distanced my friends from  
me; You have made me repulsive to  
them. I am shut in and cannot go out.

<sup>9</sup> My eyes are worn out from crying.  
LORD, I cry out to You all day long; I  
spread out my hands to You.

<sup>10</sup> Do You work wonders for the dead?  
Do departed spirits rise up to praise You?  
Selah

<sup>11</sup> Will Your faithful love be declared in  
the grave, Your faithfulness in Abaddon?

<sup>12</sup> Will Your wonders be known in the  
darkness, or Your righteousness in the  
land of oblivion?

<sup>13</sup> But I call to You for help, LORD; in the  
morning my prayer meets You.

<sup>14</sup> LORD, why do You reject me? Why do  
You hide Your face from me?

<sup>15</sup> From my youth, I have been afflicted  
and near death. I suffer Your horrors; I  
am desperate.

<sup>16</sup> Your wrath sweeps over me; Your  
terrors destroy me.

<sup>17</sup> They surround me like water all day long; they close in on me from every side.

<sup>18</sup> You have distanced loved one and neighbor from me; darkness is my only friend.

**89** <sup>1</sup> A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.  
I will sing about the LORD's faithful love forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup> For I will declare, "Faithful love is built up forever; You establish Your faithfulness in the heavens."

<sup>3</sup> The LORD said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David My servant:

<sup>4</sup> 'I will establish your offspring forever and build up your throne for all generations.'" Selah

<sup>5</sup> LORD, the heavens praise Your wonders--Your faithfulness also--in the assembly of the holy ones.

<sup>6</sup> For who in the skies can compare with the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?

<sup>7</sup> God is greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, more awe-inspiring than all who surround Him.

<sup>8</sup> LORD God of Hosts, who is strong like You, LORD? Your faithfulness surrounds You.

<sup>9</sup> You rule the raging sea; when its waves surge, You still them.

<sup>10</sup> You crushed Rahab like one who is slain; You scattered Your enemies with Your powerful arm.

<sup>11</sup> The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours. The world and everything in it--You founded them.

<sup>12</sup> North and south--You created them.  
Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at Your name.

<sup>13</sup> You have a mighty arm; Your hand is powerful; Your right hand is lifted high.

<sup>14</sup> Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; faithful love and truth go before You.

<sup>15</sup> Happy are the people who know the joyful shout; LORD, they walk in the light of Your presence.

<sup>16</sup> They rejoice in Your name all day long, and they are exalted by Your righteousness.

<sup>17</sup> For You are their magnificent strength; by Your favor our horn is exalted.

<sup>18</sup> Surely our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>19</sup> You once spoke in a vision to Your loyal ones and said: "I have granted help

to a warrior; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

<sup>20</sup> I have found David My servant; I have anointed him with My sacred oil.

<sup>21</sup> My hand will always be with him, and My arm will strengthen him.

<sup>22</sup> The enemy will not afflict him; no wicked man will oppress him.

<sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him and strike those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and love will be with him, and through My name his horn will be exalted.

<sup>25</sup> I will extend his power to the sea and his right hand to the rivers.

<sup>26</sup> He will call to Me, 'You are my Father, my God, the rock of my salvation.'

<sup>27</sup> I will also make him My firstborn, greatest of the kings of the earth.

<sup>28</sup> I will always preserve My faithful love for him, and My covenant with him will endure.

<sup>29</sup> I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as heaven lasts.

<sup>30</sup> If his sons forsake My instruction and do not live by My ordinances,

<sup>31</sup> if they dishonor My statutes and do not keep My commandments,

<sup>32</sup> then I will call their rebellion to account with the rod, their sin with blows.

<sup>33</sup> But I will not withdraw My faithful love from him or betray My faithfulness.

<sup>34</sup> I will not violate My covenant or change what My lips have said.

<sup>35</sup> Once and for all I have sworn an oath by My holiness; I will not lie to David.

<sup>36</sup> His offspring will continue forever, his throne like the sun before Me,

<sup>37</sup> like the moon, established forever, a faithful witness in the sky." Selah

<sup>38</sup> But You have spurned and rejected him; You have become enraged with Your anointed.

<sup>39</sup> You have repudiated the covenant with Your servant; You have completely dishonored his crown.

<sup>40</sup> You have broken down all his walls; You have reduced his fortified cities to ruins.

<sup>41</sup> All who pass by plunder him; he has become a joke to his neighbors.

<sup>42</sup> You have lifted high the right hand of his foes; You have made all his enemies rejoice.

<sup>43</sup> You have also turned back his sharp sword and have not let him stand in battle.

<sup>44</sup> You have made his splendor cease and have overturned his throne.

<sup>45</sup> You have shortened the days of his youth; You have covered him with shame. Selah

<sup>46</sup> How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your anger keep burning like fire?



<sup>47</sup> Remember how short my life is. Have You created everyone for nothing?

<sup>48</sup> What man can live and never see death? Who can save himself from the power of Sheol? Selah

<sup>49</sup> Lord, where are the former acts of Your faithful love that You swore to David in Your faithfulness?

<sup>50</sup> Remember, Lord, the ridicule against Your servants--in my heart I carry abuse from all the peoples--

<sup>51</sup> how Your enemies have ridiculed, LORD, how they have ridiculed every step of Your anointed.

<sup>52</sup> May the LORD be praised forever. Amen and amen.

**90** <sup>1</sup> A prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, You have been our refuge in every generation.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born, before You gave birth to the earth and

the world, from eternity to eternity, You are God.

<sup>3</sup> You return mankind to the dust, saying, "Return, descendants of Adam."

<sup>4</sup> For in Your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that passes by, like a few hours of the night.

<sup>5</sup> You end their life; they sleep. They are like grass that grows in the morning--

<sup>6</sup> in the morning it sprouts and grows; by evening it withers and dries up.

<sup>7</sup> For we are consumed by Your anger; we are terrified by Your wrath.

<sup>8</sup> You have set our unjust ways before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

<sup>9</sup> For all our days ebb away under Your wrath; we end our years like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup> Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup> Who understands the power of Your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due You.

<sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.

<sup>13</sup> LORD--how long? Turn and have compassion on Your servants.

<sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with Your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup> Make us rejoice for as many days as You have humbled us, for as many years as we have seen adversity.

<sup>16</sup> Let Your work be seen by Your servants, and Your splendor by their children.

<sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands--establish the work of our hands!

**91** <sup>1</sup> The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells 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> He Himself will deliver you from the hunter's net, from the destructive plague.

<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with His feathers; you will take refuge under His wings. His faithfulness will be a protective shield.

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night, the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> the plague that stalks in darkness, or the pestilence that ravages at noon.

<sup>7</sup> Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, the pestilence will not reach you.

<sup>8</sup> You will only see it with your eyes and witness the punishment of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD--my refuge, the Most High--your dwelling place,

<sup>10</sup> no harm will come to you; no plague will come near your tent.

<sup>11</sup> For He will give His angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> They will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the young lion and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup> Because he is lovingly devoted to Me, I will deliver him; I will exalt him because he knows My name.

<sup>15</sup> When he calls out to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will rescue him and give him honor.

<sup>16</sup> I will satisfy him with a long life and show him My salvation.

**92** <sup>1</sup> A psalm. A song for the Sabbath day. It is good to praise the LORD, to sing praise to Your name, Most High,  
<sup>2</sup> to declare Your faithful love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night,  
<sup>3</sup> with a ten-stringed harp and the music of a lyre.

<sup>4</sup> For You have made me rejoice, LORD, by what You have done; I will shout for joy because of the works of Your hands.

<sup>5</sup> How magnificent are Your works, LORD, how profound Your thoughts!

<sup>6</sup> A stupid person does not know, a fool does not understand this:

<sup>7</sup> though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be eternally destroyed.

<sup>8</sup> But You, LORD, are exalted forever.

<sup>9</sup> For indeed, LORD, Your enemies-- indeed, Your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered.

<sup>10</sup> You have lifted up my horn like that of a wild ox; I have been anointed with oil.

<sup>11</sup> My eyes look down on my enemies; my ears hear evildoers when they attack me.

<sup>12</sup> The righteous thrive like a palm tree and grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup> Planted in the house of the LORD, they thrive in the courtyards of our God.

<sup>14</sup> They will still bear fruit in old age, healthy and green,

<sup>15</sup> to declare: "The LORD is just; 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, enveloped in strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.

<sup>2</sup> Your throne has been established from the beginning; You are from eternity.

<sup>3</sup> The floods have lifted up, LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup> Greater than the roar of many waters--the mighty breakers of the sea--the LORD on high is majestic.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, Your testimonies are completely reliable; holiness is the beauty of Your house for all the days to come.

**94** <sup>1</sup> LORD, God of vengeance--God of vengeance, appear.

<sup>2</sup> Rise up, Judge of the earth; repay the proud what they deserve.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, how long will the wicked--how long will the wicked gloat?

<sup>4</sup> They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers boast.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, they crush Your people; they afflict Your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> They kill the widow and the foreigner and murder the fatherless.



<sup>7</sup> They say, "The LORD doesn't see it.  
The God of Jacob doesn't pay attention."

<sup>8</sup> Pay attention, you stupid people!  
Fools, when will you be wise?

<sup>9</sup> Can the One who shaped the ear not  
hear, the One who formed the eye not  
see?

<sup>10</sup> The One who instructs nations, the  
One who teaches man knowledge--does  
He not discipline?

<sup>11</sup> The LORD knows man's thoughts;  
they are meaningless.

<sup>12</sup> LORD, happy is the man You discipline  
and teach from Your law

<sup>13</sup> to give him relief from troubled times  
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD will not forsake His people  
or abandon His heritage,

<sup>15</sup> for justice will again be righteous,  
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

<sup>16</sup> Who stands up for me against the wicked? Who takes a stand for me against evildoers?

<sup>17</sup> If the LORD had not been my help, I would soon rest in the silence of death .

<sup>18</sup> If I say, "My foot is slipping," Your faithful love will support me, LORD.

<sup>19</sup> When I am filled with cares, Your comfort brings me joy.

<sup>20</sup> Can a corrupt throne--one that creates trouble by law--become Your ally?

<sup>21</sup> They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.

<sup>22</sup> But the LORD is my refuge; my God is the rock of my protection.

<sup>23</sup> He will pay them back for their sins and destroy them for their evil. The LORD our God will destroy them.

**95** <sup>1</sup> Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> The depths of the earth are in His hand, and the mountain peaks are His.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is His; He made it. His hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> 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, the sheep under His care. Today, if you hear His voice:

<sup>8</sup> "Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the wilderness

<sup>9</sup> where your fathers tested Me; they tried Me, though they had seen what I did.

<sup>10</sup> For 40 years I was disgusted with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray; they do not know My ways.'

<sup>11</sup> So I swore in My anger, 'They will not enter My rest.'"

**96** <sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, praise His name; proclaim His salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful works among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD is great and is highly praised; He is feared above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are 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, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; bring an offering and enter His courts.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations: "The LORD reigns. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken. He judges the peoples fairly."

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and all that fills it resound.

<sup>12</sup> Let the fields and everything in them exult. Then all the trees of the forest will shout for joy

<sup>13</sup> before the LORD, for He is coming-- for He is coming to judge the earth. He

will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with His faithfulness.

**97** <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coasts and islands be glad.

<sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before Him and burns up His foes on every side.

<sup>4</sup> His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD--at the presence of the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim His righteousness; all the peoples see His glory.

<sup>7</sup> All who serve carved images, those who boast in idols, will be put to shame. All the gods must worship Him.

<sup>8</sup> Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For You, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; You are exalted above all the gods.

<sup>10</sup> You who love the LORD, hate evil! He protects the lives of His godly ones; He rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> Light dawns for the righteous, gladness for the upright in heart.

<sup>12</sup> Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones, and praise His holy name.

**98** <sup>1</sup> A psalm. Sing a new song to the LORD, for He has performed wonders; His right hand and holy arm have won Him victory.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made His victory known; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered His love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen our God's victory.

<sup>4</sup> Shout to the LORD, all the earth; be jubilant, shout for joy, and sing.

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and melodious song.

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn shout triumphantly in the presence of the LORD, our King.

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it, resound.

<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands; let the mountains shout together for joy

<sup>9</sup> before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world righteously and the peoples fairly.

**99** <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns! Let the peoples tremble. He is enthroned above the cherubim. Let the earth quake.



<sup>2</sup> The LORD is great in Zion; He is exalted above all the peoples.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise Your great and awe-inspiring name. He is holy.

<sup>4</sup> The mighty King loves justice. You have established fairness; You have administered justice and righteousness in Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> Exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at His footstool. He is holy.

<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those calling on His name. They called to the LORD, and He answered them.

<sup>7</sup> He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud; they kept His decrees and the statutes He gave them.

<sup>8</sup> LORD our God, You answered them. You were a God who forgave them, but punished their misdeeds.

<sup>9</sup> Exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at His holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

**100** <sup>1</sup> A psalm of thanksgiving.  
Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

<sup>3</sup> Acknowledge that the LORD is God. He made us, and we are His--His people, the sheep of His pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good, and His love is eternal; His faithfulness endures through all generations.

**101** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. I will sing of faithful love and justice; I will sing praise to You, LORD.

<sup>2</sup> I will pay attention to the way of integrity. When will You come to me?

I will live with integrity of heart in my house.

<sup>3</sup> I will not set anything godless before my eyes. I hate the doing of transgression; it will not cling to me.

<sup>4</sup> A devious heart will be far from me; I will not be involved with evil.

<sup>5</sup> I will destroy anyone who secretly slanders his neighbor; I cannot tolerate anyone with haughty eyes or an arrogant heart.

<sup>6</sup> My eyes favor the faithful of the land so that they may sit down with me. The one who follows the way of integrity may serve me.

<sup>7</sup> No one who acts deceitfully will live in my palace; no one who tells lies will remain in my presence.

<sup>8</sup> Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, eliminating all evildoers from the LORD's city.

**102** <sup>1</sup> A prayer of an afflicted person who is weak and pours out his lament before the LORD. LORD, hear my prayer; let my cry for help come before You.

<sup>2</sup> Do not hide Your face from me in my day of trouble. Listen closely to me; answer me quickly when I call.

<sup>3</sup> For my days vanish like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

<sup>4</sup> My heart is afflicted, withered like grass; I even forget to eat my food.

<sup>5</sup> Because of the sound of my groaning, my flesh sticks to my bones.

<sup>6</sup> I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.

<sup>7</sup> I stay awake; I am like a solitary bird on a roof.

<sup>8</sup> My enemies taunt me all day long; they ridicule and curse me.

<sup>9</sup> I eat ashes like bread and mingle my drinks with tears

<sup>10</sup> because of Your indignation and wrath; for You have picked me up and thrown me aside.

<sup>11</sup> My days are like a lengthening shadow, and I wither away like grass.

<sup>12</sup> But You, LORD, are enthroned forever; Your fame endures to all generations.

<sup>13</sup> You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her--the appointed time has come.

<sup>14</sup> For Your servants take delight in its stones and favor its dust.

<sup>15</sup> Then the nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth Your glory,

<sup>16</sup> for the LORD will rebuild Zion; He will appear in His glory.

<sup>17</sup> He will pay attention to the prayer of the destitute and will not despise their prayer.

<sup>18</sup> This will be written for a later generation, and a newly created people will praise the LORD:

<sup>19</sup> He looked down from His holy heights--the LORD gazed out from heaven to earth--

<sup>20</sup> to hear a prisoner's groaning, to set free those condemned to die,

<sup>21</sup> so that they might declare the name of the LORD in Zion and His praise in Jerusalem,

<sup>22</sup> when peoples and kingdoms are assembled to serve the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> He has broken my strength in midcourse; He has shortened my days.

<sup>24</sup> I say: "My God, do not take me in the middle of my life! Your years continue through all generations.

<sup>25</sup> Long ago You established the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

<sup>26</sup> They will perish, but You will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away.

<sup>27</sup> But You are the same, and Your years will never end.

<sup>28</sup> Your servants' children will dwell securely , and their offspring will be established before You."

**103** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. My soul, praise the LORD, and all that is within me, praise His holy name.

<sup>2</sup> My soul, praise the LORD, and do not forget all His benefits.

<sup>3</sup> He forgives all your sin; He heals all your diseases.

<sup>4</sup> He redeems your life from the Pit; He crowns you with faithful love and compassion.

<sup>5</sup> He satisfies you with goodness; your youth is renewed like the eagle.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD executes acts of righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

<sup>7</sup> He revealed His ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and full of faithful love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse us or be angry forever.

<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our offenses.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His faithful love toward those who fear Him.

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.



<sup>14</sup> For He knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass--he blooms like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup> when the wind passes over it, it vanishes, and its place is no longer known.

<sup>17</sup> But from eternity to eternity the LORD's faithful love is toward those who fear Him, and His righteousness toward the grandchildren

<sup>18</sup> of those who keep His covenant, who remember to observe His instructions.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup> Praise the LORD, all His angels of great strength, who do His word, obedient to His command.

<sup>21</sup> Praise the LORD, all His armies, His servants who do His will.

<sup>22</sup> Praise the LORD, all His works in all the places where He rules. My soul, praise the LORD!

**104** <sup>1</sup> My soul, praise the LORD!  
LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

<sup>2</sup> He wraps Himself in light as if it were a robe, spreading out the sky like a canopy,

<sup>3</sup> laying the beams of His palace on the waters above, making the clouds His chariot, walking on the wings of the wind,

<sup>4</sup> and making the winds His messengers, flames of fire His servants.

<sup>5</sup> He established the earth on its foundations; it will never be shaken.

<sup>6</sup> You covered it with the deep as if it were a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

<sup>7</sup> At Your rebuke the waters fled; at the sound of Your thunder they hurried away--

<sup>8</sup> mountains rose and valleys sank--to the place You established for them.

<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary they cannot cross; they will never cover the earth again.

<sup>10</sup> He causes the springs to gush into the valleys; they flow between the mountains.

<sup>11</sup> They supply water for every wild beast; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

<sup>12</sup> The birds of the sky live beside the springs ; they sing among the foliage.

<sup>13</sup> He waters the mountains from His palace; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of Your labor.

<sup>14</sup> He causes grass to grow for the livestock and provides crops for man to cultivate, producing food from the earth,

<sup>15</sup> wine that makes man's heart glad--making his face shine with oil--and bread that sustains man's heart.

<sup>16</sup> The trees of the LORD flourish, the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.

<sup>17</sup> There the birds make their nests; the stork makes its home in the pine trees.

<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats; the cliffs are a refuge for hyraxes.

<sup>19</sup> He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set.

<sup>20</sup> You bring darkness, and it becomes night, when all the forest animals stir.

<sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.

<sup>22</sup> The sun rises; they go back and lie down in their dens.

<sup>23</sup> Man goes out to his work and to his labor until evening.

<sup>24</sup> How countless are Your works, LORD! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> Here is the sea, vast and wide,  
teeming with creatures beyond  
number--living things both large and  
small.

<sup>26</sup> There the ships move about, and  
Leviathan, which You formed to play  
there.

<sup>27</sup> All of them wait for You to give them  
their food at the right time.

<sup>28</sup> When You give it to them, they  
gather it; when You open Your hand,  
they are satisfied with good things.

<sup>29</sup> When You hide Your face, they are  
terrified; when You take away their  
breath, they die and return to the dust.

<sup>30</sup> When You send Your breath, they are  
created, and You renew the face of the  
earth.

<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the LORD endure  
forever; may the LORD rejoice in His  
works.

<sup>32</sup> He looks at the earth, and it trembles;  
He touches the mountains, and they  
pour out smoke.

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will  
sing praise to my God while I live.

<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to  
Him; I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35</sup> May sinners vanish from the earth  
and the wicked be no more. My soul,  
praise the LORD! Hallelujah!

**105** <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD,  
call on His name; proclaim His  
deeds among the peoples.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell  
about all His wonderful works!

<sup>3</sup> Honor His holy name; let the hearts of  
those who seek the LORD rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> Search for the LORD and for His  
strength; seek His face always.

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wonderful works  
He has done, His wonders, and the  
judgments He has pronounced,

<sup>6</sup> You offspring of Abraham His servant,  
Jacob's descendants--His chosen ones.

<sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God; His judgments  
govern the whole earth.

<sup>8</sup> He forever remembers His covenant,  
the promise He ordained for a thousand  
generations--

<sup>9</sup> the covenant He made with Abraham,  
swore to Isaac,

<sup>10</sup> and confirmed to Jacob as a decree  
and to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

<sup>11</sup> "I will give the land of Canaan to you  
as your inherited portion."

<sup>12</sup> When they were few in number, very  
few indeed, and temporary residents in  
Canaan,

<sup>13</sup> wandering from nation to nation and  
from one kingdom to another,

<sup>14</sup> He allowed no one to oppress them;  
He rebuked kings on their behalf:

<sup>15</sup> "Do not touch My anointed ones, or  
harm My prophets."

<sup>16</sup> He called down famine against the land and destroyed the entire food supply.

<sup>17</sup> He had sent a man ahead of them--Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

<sup>18</sup> They hurt his feet with shackles; his neck was put in an iron collar.

<sup>19</sup> Until the time his prediction came true, the word of the LORD tested him.

<sup>20</sup> The king sent for him and released him; the ruler of peoples set him free.

<sup>21</sup> He made him master of his household, ruler over all his possessions-

-  
<sup>22</sup> binding his officials at will and instructing his elders.

<sup>23</sup> Then Israel went to Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

<sup>24</sup> The LORD made His people very fruitful; He made them more numerous than their foes,



<sup>25</sup> whose hearts He turned to hate His people and to deal deceptively with His servants.

<sup>26</sup> He sent Moses His servant, and Aaron, whom He had chosen.

<sup>27</sup> They performed His miraculous signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.

<sup>28</sup> He sent darkness, and it became dark--for did they not defy His commands?

<sup>29</sup> He turned their waters into blood and caused their fish to die.

<sup>30</sup> Their land was overrun with frogs, even in their kings' chambers.

<sup>31</sup> He spoke, and insects came--gnats throughout their country.

<sup>32</sup> He gave them hail for rain, and lightning throughout their land.

<sup>33</sup> He struck their vines and fig trees and shattered the trees of their territory.

<sup>34</sup> He spoke and locusts came--young locusts without number.

<sup>35</sup> They devoured all the vegetation in their land and consumed the produce of their soil.

<sup>36</sup> He struck all the firstborn in their land, all their first progeny.

<sup>37</sup> Then He brought Israel out with silver and gold, and no one among His tribes stumbled.

<sup>38</sup> Egypt was glad when they left, for dread of Israel had fallen on them.

<sup>39</sup> He spread a cloud as a covering and gave a fire to light up the night.

<sup>40</sup> They asked, and He brought quail and satisfied them with bread from heaven.

<sup>41</sup> He opened a rock, and water gushed out; it flowed like a stream in the desert.

<sup>42</sup> For He remembered His holy promise to Abraham His servant.

<sup>43</sup> He brought His people out with rejoicing, His chosen ones with shouts of joy.

<sup>44</sup> He gave them the lands of the nations, and they inherited what other peoples had worked for.

<sup>45</sup> All this happened so that they might keep His statutes and obey His laws.  
Hallelujah!

**106** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Who can declare the LORD's mighty acts or proclaim all the praise due Him?

<sup>3</sup> How happy are those who uphold justice, who practice righteousness at all times.

<sup>4</sup> Remember me, LORD, when You show favor to Your people. Come to me with Your salvation

<sup>5</sup> so that I may enjoy the prosperity of Your chosen ones, rejoice in the joy

of Your nation, and boast about Your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have gone astray and have acted wickedly.

<sup>7</sup> Our fathers in Egypt did not grasp the significance of Your wonderful works or remember Your many acts of faithful love; instead, they rebelled by the sea--the Red Sea.

<sup>8</sup> Yet He saved them because of His name, to make His power known.

<sup>9</sup> He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; He led them through the depths as through a desert.

<sup>10</sup> He saved them from the hand of the adversary; He redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

<sup>11</sup> Water covered their foes; not one of them remained.

<sup>12</sup> Then they believed His promises and sang His praise.

<sup>13</sup> They soon forgot His works and would not wait for His counsel.

<sup>14</sup> They were seized with craving in the wilderness and tested God in the desert.

<sup>15</sup> He gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them.

<sup>16</sup> In the camp they were envious of Moses and of Aaron, the LORD's holy one.

<sup>17</sup> The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it covered the assembly of Abiram.

<sup>18</sup> Fire blazed throughout their assembly; flames consumed the wicked.

<sup>19</sup> At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped the cast metal image.

<sup>20</sup> They exchanged their glory for the image of a grass-eating ox.

<sup>21</sup> They forgot God their Savior, who did great things in Egypt,

<sup>22</sup> wonderful works in the land of Ham, awe-inspiring deeds at the Red Sea.

<sup>23</sup> So He said He would have destroyed them--if Moses His chosen one had not stood before Him in the breach to turn His wrath away from destroying them .

<sup>24</sup> They despised the pleasant land and did not believe His promise.

<sup>25</sup> They grumbled in their tents and did not listen to the LORD's voice.

<sup>26</sup> So He raised His hand against them with an oath that He would make them fall in the desert

<sup>27</sup> and would disperse their descendants among the nations, scattering them throughout the lands.

<sup>28</sup> They aligned themselves with Baal of Peor and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods.

<sup>29</sup> They provoked the LORD with their deeds, and a plague broke out against them.

<sup>30</sup> But Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stopped.

<sup>31</sup> It was credited to him as righteousness throughout all generations to come.

<sup>32</sup> They angered the LORD at the waters of Meribah, and Moses suffered because of them;

<sup>33</sup> for they embittered his spirit, and he spoke rashly with his lips.

<sup>34</sup> They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them,

<sup>35</sup> but mingled with the nations and adopted their ways.

<sup>36</sup> They served their idols, which became a snare to them.

<sup>37</sup> They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons.

<sup>38</sup> They shed innocent blood--the blood of their sons and daughters whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; so the land became polluted with blood.

<sup>39</sup> They defiled themselves by their actions and prostituted themselves by their deeds.

<sup>40</sup> Therefore the LORD's anger burned against His people, and He abhorred His own inheritance.

<sup>41</sup> He handed them over to the nations; those who hated them ruled them.

<sup>42</sup> Their enemies oppressed them, and they were subdued under their power.

<sup>43</sup> He rescued them many times, but they continued to rebel deliberately and were beaten down by their sin.

<sup>44</sup> When He heard their cry, He took note of their distress,

<sup>45</sup> remembered His covenant with them, and relented according to the abundance of His faithful love.

<sup>46</sup> He caused them to be pitied before all their captors.

<sup>47</sup> Save us, LORD our God, and gather us from the nations, so that we may give



thanks to Your holy name and rejoice in Your praise.

<sup>48</sup> May the LORD, the God of Israel, be praised from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!"

Hallelujah!

**107** <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that He has redeemed them from the hand of the foe

<sup>3</sup> and has gathered them from the lands--from the east and the west, from the north and the south.

<sup>4</sup> Some wandered in the desolate wilderness, finding no way to a city where they could live.

<sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits failed within them.

<sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He rescued them from their distress.

<sup>7</sup> He led them by the right path to go to a city where they could live.

<sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for His faithful love and His wonderful works for the human race.

<sup>9</sup> For He has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things.

<sup>10</sup> Others sat in darkness and gloom-- prisoners in cruel chains--

<sup>11</sup> because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the counsel of the Most High.

<sup>12</sup> He broke their spirits with hard labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

<sup>13</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He saved them from their distress.

<sup>14</sup> He brought them out of darkness and gloom and broke their chains apart.

<sup>15</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for His faithful love and His wonderful works for the human race.

<sup>16</sup> For He has broken down the bronze gates and cut through the iron bars.

<sup>17</sup> Fools suffered affliction because of their rebellious ways and their sins.

<sup>18</sup> They loathed all food and came near the gates of death.

<sup>19</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He saved them from their distress.

<sup>20</sup> He sent His word and healed them; He rescued them from the Pit.

<sup>21</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for His faithful love and His wonderful works for the human race.

<sup>22</sup> Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and announce His works with shouts of joy.

<sup>23</sup> Others went to sea in ships,  
conducting trade on the vast waters.

<sup>24</sup> They saw the LORD's works, His  
wonderful works in the deep.

<sup>25</sup> He spoke and raised a tempest that  
stirred up the waves of the sea.

<sup>26</sup> Rising up to the sky, sinking down to  
the depths, their courage melting away  
in anguish,

<sup>27</sup> they reeled and staggered like  
drunken men, and all their skill was  
useless.

<sup>28</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in  
their trouble, and He brought them out  
of their distress.

<sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a murmur, and  
the waves of the sea were hushed.

<sup>30</sup> They rejoiced when the waves grew  
quiet. Then He guided them to the  
harbor they longed for.

<sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for His faithful love and His wonderful works for the human race.

<sup>32</sup> Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people and praise Him in the council of the elders.

<sup>33</sup> He turns rivers into desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,

<sup>34</sup> and fruitful land into salty wasteland, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

<sup>35</sup> He turns a desert into a pool of water, dry land into springs of water.

<sup>36</sup> He causes the hungry to settle there, and they establish a city where they can live.

<sup>37</sup> They sow fields and plant vineyards that yield a fruitful harvest.

<sup>38</sup> He blesses them, and they multiply greatly; He does not let their livestock decrease.

<sup>39</sup> When they are diminished and are humbled by cruel oppression and sorrow,

<sup>40</sup> He pours contempt on nobles and makes them wander in trackless wastelands.

<sup>41</sup> But He lifts the needy out of their suffering and makes their families multiply like flocks.

<sup>42</sup> The upright see it and rejoice, and all injustice shuts its mouth.

<sup>43</sup> Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things and consider the LORD's acts of faithful love.

**108** <sup>1</sup> A song. A Davidic psalm. My heart is confident, God; I will sing; I will sing praises with the whole of my being.

<sup>2</sup> Wake up, harp and lyre! I will wake up the dawn.

<sup>3</sup> I will praise You, LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

<sup>4</sup> For Your faithful love is higher than the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches the clouds.

<sup>5</sup> God, be exalted above the heavens; let Your glory be over the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> Save with Your right hand and answer me so that those You love may be rescued.

<sup>7</sup> God has spoken in His sanctuary: "I will triumph! I will divide up Shechem. I will apportion the Valley of Succoth.

<sup>8</sup> Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is Mine, and Ephraim is My helmet; Judah is My scepter.

<sup>9</sup> Moab is My washbasin; on Edom I throw My sandal. 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, God? God,  
You do not march out with our armies.

<sup>12</sup> Give us aid against the foe, for human  
help is worthless.

<sup>13</sup> With God we will perform valiantly;  
He will trample our foes.

**109** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A  
Davidic psalm. God of my  
praise, do not be silent.

<sup>2</sup> For wicked and deceitful mouths open  
against me; they speak against me with  
lying tongues.

<sup>3</sup> They surround me with hateful words  
and attack me without cause.

<sup>4</sup> In return for my love they accuse me,  
but I continue to pray.

<sup>5</sup> They repay me evil for good, and  
hatred for my love.

<sup>6</sup> Set a wicked person over him; let an  
accuser stand at his right hand.



<sup>7</sup> When he is judged, let him be found guilty, and let his prayer be counted as sin.

<sup>8</sup> Let his days be few; let another take over his position.

<sup>9</sup> Let his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.

<sup>10</sup> Let his children wander as beggars, searching for food far from their demolished homes.

<sup>11</sup> Let a creditor seize all he has; let strangers plunder what he has worked for.

<sup>12</sup> Let no one show him kindness, and let no one be gracious to his fatherless children.

<sup>13</sup> Let the line of his descendants be cut off; let their name be blotted out in the next generation.

<sup>14</sup> Let his forefathers' guilt be remembered before the LORD, and do not let his mother's sin be blotted out.

<sup>15</sup> Let their sins always remain before the LORD, and let Him cut off all memory of them from the earth.

<sup>16</sup> For he did not think to show kindness, but pursued the wretched poor and the brokenhearted in order to put them to death.

<sup>17</sup> He loved cursing--let it fall on him; he took no delight in blessing--let it be far from him.

<sup>18</sup> He wore cursing like his coat--let it enter his body like water and go into his bones like oil.

<sup>19</sup> Let it be like a robe he wraps around himself, like a belt he always wears.

<sup>20</sup> Let this be the LORD's payment to my accusers, to those who speak evil against me.

<sup>21</sup> But You, GOD my Lord, deal kindly with me because of Your name; deliver me because of the goodness of Your faithful love.

<sup>22</sup> For I am poor and needy; my heart is wounded within me.

<sup>23</sup> I fade away like a lengthening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.

<sup>24</sup> My knees are weak from fasting, and my body is emaciated.

<sup>25</sup> I have become an object of ridicule to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads in scorn .

<sup>26</sup> Help me, LORD my God; save me according to Your faithful love

<sup>27</sup> so they may know that this is Your hand and that You, LORD, have done it.

<sup>28</sup> Though they curse, You will bless. When they rise up, they will be put to shame, but Your servant will rejoice.

<sup>29</sup> My accusers will be clothed with disgrace; they will wear their shame like a cloak.

<sup>30</sup> I will fervently thank the LORD with my mouth; I will praise Him in the presence of many.

<sup>31</sup> For He stands at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who would condemn him.

**110** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. The LORD declared to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool."

<sup>2</sup> The LORD will extend Your mighty scepter from Zion. Rule over Your surrounding enemies.

<sup>3</sup> Your people will volunteer on Your day of battle. In holy splendor, from the womb of the dawn, the dew of Your youth belongs to You.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn an oath and will not take it back: "Forever, You are a priest like Melchizedek."

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at Your right hand; He will crush kings on the day of His anger.

<sup>6</sup> He will judge the nations, heaping up corpses; He will crush leaders over the entire world.

<sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the road; therefore, He will lift up His head.

**111** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! I will praise the LORD with all my heart in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD's works are great, studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> All that He does is splendid and majestic; His righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has caused His wonderful works to be remembered. The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

<sup>5</sup> He has provided food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown His people the power of His works by giving them the inheritance of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His instructions are trustworthy.

<sup>8</sup> They are established forever and ever, enacted in truth and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He has sent redemption to His people. He has ordained His covenant forever. His name is holy and awe-inspiring.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His instructions have good insight. His praise endures forever.

**112** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy is the man who fears the LORD, taking great delight in His commandments.

<sup>2</sup> His descendants will be powerful 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 shines in the darkness for the upright. He is gracious, compassionate, and righteous.

<sup>5</sup> Good will come to a man who lends generously and conducts his business fairly.

<sup>6</sup> He will never be shaken. The righteous will be remembered forever.

<sup>7</sup> He will not fear bad news; his heart is confident, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> His heart is assured; he will not fear. In the end he will look in triumph on his foes.

<sup>9</sup> He distributes freely to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. His horn will be exalted in honor.

<sup>10</sup> The wicked man will see it and be angry; he will gnash his teeth in despair. The desire of the wicked will come to nothing.

**113** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise,  
servants of the LORD; praise  
the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Let the name of the LORD be praised  
both now and forever.

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its  
setting, let the name of the LORD be  
praised.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD is exalted above all the  
nations, His glory above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God--the  
One enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup> who stoops down to look on the  
heavens and the earth?

<sup>7</sup> He raises the poor from the dust and  
lifts the needy from the garbage pile

<sup>8</sup> in order to seat them with nobles--  
with the nobles of His people.

<sup>9</sup> He gives the childless woman a  
household, making her the joyful  
mother of children. Hallelujah!



**114** <sup>1</sup> When Israel came out of Egypt--the house of Jacob from a people who spoke a foreign language--

<sup>2</sup> Judah became His sanctuary, Israel, His dominion.

<sup>3</sup> The sea looked and fled; the Jordan turned back.

<sup>4</sup> The mountains skipped like rams, the hills, like lambs.

<sup>5</sup> Why was it, sea, that you fled? Jordan, that you turned back?

<sup>6</sup> Mountains, that you skipped like rams? Hills, like lambs?

<sup>7</sup> Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

<sup>8</sup> who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

**115** <sup>1</sup> Not to us, LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory

because of Your faithful love, because of Your truth.

<sup>2</sup> Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

<sup>3</sup> Our God is in heaven and does whatever He pleases.

<sup>4</sup> Their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands.

<sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.

<sup>6</sup> They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell.

<sup>7</sup> They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk. They cannot make a sound with their throats.

<sup>8</sup> Those who make them are just like them, as are all who trust in them.

<sup>9</sup> Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and shield.

<sup>10</sup> House of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and shield.

<sup>11</sup> You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and shield.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD remembers us and 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--small and great alike.

<sup>14</sup> May the LORD add to your numbers , both yours and your children's.

<sup>15</sup> May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>16</sup> The heavens are the LORD's, but the earth He has given to the human race.

<sup>17</sup> It is not the dead who praise the LORD, nor any of those descending into the silence of death .

<sup>18</sup> But we will praise the LORD, both now and forever. Hallelujah!

**116** <sup>1</sup> I love the LORD because He has heard my appeal for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> Because He has turned His ear to me,  
I will call out to Him as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> The ropes of death were wrapped  
around me, and the torments of Sheol  
overcame me; I encountered trouble  
and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the  
LORD: "LORD, save me!"

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is gracious and righteous;  
our God is compassionate.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD guards the inexperienced; I  
was helpless, and He saved me.

<sup>7</sup> Return to your rest, my soul, for the  
LORD has been good to you.

<sup>8</sup> For You, LORD, rescued me 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 said, "I am  
severely afflicted."

<sup>11</sup> In my alarm I said, "Everyone is a liar."

<sup>12</sup> How can I repay the LORD all the good He has done for me?

<sup>13</sup> I will take the cup of salvation and worship the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

<sup>15</sup> The death of His faithful ones is valuable in the LORD's sight.

<sup>16</sup> LORD, I am indeed Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your female servant. You have loosened my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> I will offer You a sacrifice of thanksgiving and will worship the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD, in the very presence of all His people,

<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the LORD's house--within you, Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**117** <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, all nations!  
Glorify Him, all peoples!

<sup>2</sup> For great is His faithful love to us;  
the LORD's faithfulness endures forever.  
Hallelujah!

**118** <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for  
He is good; His faithful love  
endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say, "His faithful love  
endures forever."

<sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say, "His  
faithful love endures forever."

<sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say, "His  
faithful love endures forever."

<sup>5</sup> I called to the LORD in distress; the  
LORD answered me and put me in a  
spacious place.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is for me; I will not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?

<sup>7</sup> With the LORD for me as my helper, I  
will 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 nobles.

<sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I destroyed them.

<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I destroyed them.

<sup>12</sup> They surrounded me like bees; they were extinguished like a fire among thorns; in the name of the LORD I destroyed them.

<sup>13</sup> You pushed me hard to make me fall, but the LORD helped me.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand strikes with power!

<sup>16</sup> The LORD's right hand is raised! The LORD's right hand strikes with power!"

<sup>17</sup> I will not die, but I will live and proclaim what the LORD has done.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD disciplined me severely but did not give me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open the gates of righteousness for me; I will enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous will enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I will give thanks to You because 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 came from the LORD; it is wonderful in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> LORD, save us! LORD, please grant us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.



<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God and has given us light. Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give You thanks. You are my God; I will exalt You.

<sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever.

**119** <sup>1</sup> How happy are those whose way is blameless, who live according to the law of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Happy are those who keep His decrees and seek Him with all their heart.

<sup>3</sup> They do nothing wrong; they follow His ways.

<sup>4</sup> You have commanded that Your precepts be diligently kept.

<sup>5</sup> If only my ways were committed to keeping Your statutes!

<sup>6</sup> Then I would not be ashamed when I think about all Your commands.

<sup>7</sup> I will praise You with a sincere heart when I learn Your righteous judgments.

<sup>8</sup> I will keep Your statutes; never abandon me.

<sup>9</sup> How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word.

<sup>10</sup> I have sought You with all my heart; don't let me wander from Your commands.

<sup>11</sup> I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You.

<sup>12</sup> LORD, may You be praised; teach me Your statutes.

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I proclaim all the judgments from Your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> I rejoice in the way revealed by Your decrees as much as in all riches.

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on Your precepts and think about Your ways.

<sup>16</sup> I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

<sup>17</sup> Deal generously with Your servant so that I might live; then I will keep Your word.

<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes so that I may see wonderful things in Your law.

<sup>19</sup> I am a stranger on earth; do not hide Your commands from me.

<sup>20</sup> I am continually overcome by longing for Your judgments.

<sup>21</sup> You rebuke the proud, the accursed, who wander from Your commands.

<sup>22</sup> Take insult and contempt away from me, for I have kept Your decrees.

<sup>23</sup> Though princes sit together speaking against me, Your servant will think about Your statutes;

<sup>24</sup> Your decrees are my delight and my counselors.

<sup>25</sup> My life is down in the dust; give me life through Your word.

<sup>26</sup> I told You about my life, and You listened to me; teach me Your statutes.

<sup>27</sup> Help me understand the meaning of Your precepts so that I can meditate on Your wonders.

<sup>28</sup> I am weary from grief; strengthen me through Your word.

<sup>29</sup> Keep me from the way of deceit, and graciously give me Your instruction.

<sup>30</sup> I have chosen the way of truth; I have set Your ordinances before me .

<sup>31</sup> I cling to Your decrees; LORD, do not put me to shame.

<sup>32</sup> I pursue the way of Your commands, for You broaden my understanding.

<sup>33</sup> Teach me, LORD, the meaning of Your statutes, and I will always keep them.

<sup>34</sup> Help me understand Your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.

<sup>35</sup> Help me stay on the path of Your commands, for I take pleasure in it.

<sup>36</sup> Turn my heart to Your decrees and not to material gain.

<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from looking at what is worthless; give me life in Your ways.

<sup>38</sup> Confirm what You said to Your servant, for it produces reverence for You.

<sup>39</sup> Turn away the disgrace I dread; indeed, Your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup> How I long for Your precepts! Give me life through Your righteousness.

<sup>41</sup> Let Your faithful love come to me, LORD, Your salvation, as You promised.

<sup>42</sup> Then I can answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in Your word.

<sup>43</sup> Never take the word of truth from my mouth, for I hope in Your judgments.

<sup>44</sup> I will always keep Your law, forever and ever.

<sup>45</sup> I will walk freely in an open place because I seek Your precepts.

<sup>46</sup> I will speak of Your decrees before kings and not be ashamed.

<sup>47</sup> I delight in Your commands, which I love.

<sup>48</sup> I will lift up my hands to Your commands, which I love, and will meditate on Your statutes.

<sup>49</sup> Remember Your word to Your servant; You have given me hope through it.

<sup>50</sup> This is my comfort in my affliction: Your promise has given me life.

<sup>51</sup> The arrogant constantly ridicule me, but I do not turn away from Your instruction.

<sup>52</sup> LORD, I remember Your judgments from long ago and find comfort.

<sup>53</sup> Rage seizes me because of the wicked who reject Your instruction.

<sup>54</sup> Your statutes are the theme of my song during my earthly life.

<sup>55</sup> I remember Your name in the night, LORD, and I keep Your law.

<sup>56</sup> This is my practice : I obey Your precepts.

<sup>57</sup> The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words.

<sup>58</sup> I have sought Your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to Your promise.

<sup>59</sup> I thought about my ways and turned my steps back to Your decrees.

<sup>60</sup> I hurried, not hesitating to keep Your commands.

<sup>61</sup> Though the ropes of the wicked were wrapped around me, I did not forget Your law.

<sup>62</sup> I rise at midnight to thank You for Your righteous judgments.

<sup>63</sup> I am a friend to all who fear You, to those who keep Your precepts.

<sup>64</sup> LORD, the earth is filled with Your faithful love; teach me Your statutes.

<sup>65</sup> LORD, You have treated Your servant well, just as You promised.

<sup>66</sup> Teach me good judgment and discernment, for I rely on Your commands.

<sup>67</sup> Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

<sup>68</sup> You are good, and You do what is good; teach me Your statutes.

<sup>69</sup> The arrogant have smeared me with lies, but I obey Your precepts with all my heart.

<sup>70</sup> Their hearts are hard and insensitive, but I delight in Your instruction.

<sup>71</sup> It was good for me to be afflicted so that I could learn Your statutes.

<sup>72</sup> Instruction from Your lips is better for me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

<sup>73</sup> Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding so that I can learn Your commands.

<sup>74</sup> Those who fear You will see me and rejoice, for I put my hope in Your word.



<sup>75</sup> I know, LORD, that Your judgments are just and that You have afflicted me fairly.

<sup>76</sup> May Your faithful love comfort me, as You promised Your servant.

<sup>77</sup> May Your compassion come to me so that I may live, for Your instruction is my delight.

<sup>78</sup> Let the arrogant be put to shame for slandering me with lies; I will meditate on Your precepts.

<sup>79</sup> Let those who fear You, those who know Your decrees, turn to me.

<sup>80</sup> May my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes so that I will not be put to shame.

<sup>81</sup> I long for Your salvation; I put my hope in Your word.

<sup>82</sup> My eyes grow weary looking for what You have promised; I ask, "When will You comfort me?"

<sup>83</sup> Though I have become like a wineskin dried by smoke, I do not forget Your statutes.

<sup>84</sup> How many days must Your servant wait ? When will You execute judgment on my persecutors?

<sup>85</sup> The arrogant have dug pits for me; they violate Your instruction.

<sup>86</sup> All Your commands are true; people persecute me with lies--help me!

<sup>87</sup> They almost ended my life on earth, but I did not abandon Your precepts.

<sup>88</sup> Give me life in accordance with Your faithful love, and I will obey the decree You have spoken.

<sup>89</sup> LORD, Your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven.

<sup>90</sup> Your faithfulness is for all generations; You established the earth, and it stands firm.

<sup>91</sup> They stand today in accordance with Your judgments, for all things are Your servants.

<sup>92</sup> If Your instruction had not been my delight, I would have died in my affliction.

<sup>93</sup> I will never forget Your precepts, for You have given me life through them.

<sup>94</sup> I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts.

<sup>95</sup> The wicked hope to destroy me, but I contemplate Your decrees.

<sup>96</sup> I have seen a limit to all perfection, but Your command is without limit.

<sup>97</sup> How I love Your teaching! It is my meditation all day long.

<sup>98</sup> Your command makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

<sup>99</sup> I have more insight than all my teachers because Your decrees are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup> I understand more than the elders  
because I obey Your precepts.

<sup>101</sup> I have kept my feet from every evil  
path to follow Your word.

<sup>102</sup> I have not turned from Your  
judgments, for You Yourself have  
instructed me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet Your word is to my  
taste--sweeter than honey to my mouth.

<sup>104</sup> I gain understanding from Your  
precepts; therefore I hate every false  
way.

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet and  
a light on my path.

<sup>106</sup> I have solemnly sworn to keep Your  
righteous judgments.

<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted; LORD, give  
me life through Your word.

<sup>108</sup> LORD, please accept my willing  
offerings of praise, and teach me Your  
judgments.

<sup>109</sup> My life is constantly in danger, yet I do not forget Your instruction.

<sup>110</sup> The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not wandered from Your precepts.

<sup>111</sup> I have Your decrees as a heritage forever; indeed, they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup> I am resolved to obey Your statutes to the very end.

<sup>113</sup> I hate the double-minded, but I love Your instruction.

<sup>114</sup> You are my shelter and my shield; I put my hope in Your word.

<sup>115</sup> Depart from me, you evil ones, so that I may obey my God's commands.

<sup>116</sup> Sustain me as You promised, and I will live; do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

<sup>117</sup> Sustain me so that I can be safe and be concerned with Your statutes continually.

<sup>118</sup> You reject all who stray from Your statutes, for their deceit is a lie.

<sup>119</sup> You remove all the wicked on earth as if they were dross; therefore, I love Your decrees.

<sup>120</sup> I tremble in awe of You; I fear Your judgments.

<sup>121</sup> I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.

<sup>122</sup> Guarantee Your servant's well-being; do not let the arrogant oppress me.

<sup>123</sup> My eyes grow weary looking for Your salvation and for Your righteous promise.

<sup>124</sup> Deal with Your servant based on Your faithful love; teach me Your statutes.

<sup>125</sup> I am Your servant; give me understanding so that I may know Your decrees.

<sup>126</sup> It is time for the LORD to act, for they have broken Your law.

<sup>127</sup> Since I love Your commandments more than gold, even the purest gold,

<sup>128</sup> I carefully follow all Your precepts and hate every false way.

<sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them.

<sup>130</sup> The revelation of Your words brings light and gives understanding to the inexperienced.

<sup>131</sup> I pant with open mouth because I long for Your commands.

<sup>132</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is Your practice toward those who love Your name.

<sup>133</sup> Make my steps steady through Your promise; don't let sin dominate me.

<sup>134</sup> Redeem me from human oppression, and I will keep Your precepts.

<sup>135</sup> Show favor to Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> My eyes pour out streams of tears because people do not follow Your instruction.

<sup>137</sup> You are righteous, LORD, and Your judgments are just.

<sup>138</sup> The decrees You issue are righteous and altogether trustworthy.

<sup>139</sup> My anger overwhelms me because my foes forget Your words.

<sup>140</sup> Your word is completely pure, and Your servant loves it.

<sup>141</sup> I am insignificant and despised, but I do not forget Your precepts.

<sup>142</sup> Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your instruction is true.

<sup>143</sup> Trouble and distress have overtaken me, but Your commands are my delight.

<sup>144</sup> Your decrees are righteous forever. Give me understanding, and I will live.



<sup>145</sup> I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

<sup>146</sup> I call to You; save me, and I will keep Your decrees.

<sup>147</sup> I rise before dawn and cry out for help; I put my hope in Your word.

<sup>148</sup> I am awake through each watch of the night to meditate on Your promise.

<sup>149</sup> In keeping with Your faithful love, hear my voice. LORD, give me life, in keeping with Your justice.

<sup>150</sup> Those who pursue evil plans come near; they are far from Your instruction.

<sup>151</sup> You are near, LORD, and all Your commands are true.

<sup>152</sup> Long ago I learned from Your decrees that You have established them forever.

<sup>153</sup> Consider my affliction and rescue me, for I have not forgotten Your instruction.

<sup>154</sup> Defend my cause, and redeem me;  
give me life, as You promised.

<sup>155</sup> Salvation is far from the wicked  
because they do not seek Your statutes.

<sup>156</sup> Your compassions are many,  
LORD; give me life, according to Your  
judgments.

<sup>157</sup> My persecutors and foes are many. I  
have not turned from Your decrees.

<sup>158</sup> I have seen the disloyal and feel  
disgust because they do not keep Your  
word.

<sup>159</sup> Consider how I love Your precepts;  
LORD, give me life, according to Your  
faithful love.

<sup>160</sup> The entirety of Your word is truth,  
and all Your righteous judgments endure  
forever.

<sup>161</sup> Princes have persecuted me without  
cause, but my heart fears only Your  
word.

<sup>162</sup> I rejoice over Your promise like one who finds vast treasure.

<sup>163</sup> I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love Your instruction.

<sup>164</sup> I praise You seven times a day for Your righteous judgments.

<sup>165</sup> Abundant peace belongs to those who love Your instruction; nothing makes them stumble.

<sup>166</sup> LORD, I hope for Your salvation and carry out Your commands.

<sup>167</sup> I obey Your decrees and love them greatly.

<sup>168</sup> I obey Your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before You.

<sup>169</sup> Let my cry reach You, LORD; give me understanding according to Your word.

<sup>170</sup> Let my plea reach You; rescue me according to Your promise.

<sup>171</sup> My lips pour out praise, for You teach me Your statutes.

<sup>172</sup> My tongue sings about Your promise, for all Your commandments are righteous.

<sup>173</sup> May Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.

<sup>174</sup> I long for Your salvation, LORD, and Your instruction is my delight.

<sup>175</sup> Let me live, and I will praise You; may Your judgments help me.

<sup>176</sup> I wander like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commands.

**120** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. In my distress I called to the LORD, and He answered me:

<sup>2</sup> "LORD, deliver me from lying lips and a deceitful tongue."

<sup>3</sup> What will He give you, and what will He do to you, you deceitful tongue?

<sup>4</sup> A warrior's sharp arrows, with burning charcoal!

<sup>5</sup> What misery that I have stayed in Meshech, that I have lived among the tents of Kedar!

<sup>6</sup> I have lived too long with 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 raise my eyes toward the mountains.

Where will my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to slip; your Protector will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, the Protector of Israel does not slumber or sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD protects you; the LORD is a shelter right by your side.

<sup>6</sup> The sun will not strike you by day, or the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will protect you from all harm; He will protect your life.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will protect your coming and going both now and forever.

**122** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic song of ascents. I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem--

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem, built as a city should be , solidly joined together,

<sup>4</sup> where the tribes, the tribes of the LORD, go up to give thanks to the name of the LORD. (This is an ordinance for Israel.)

<sup>5</sup> There, thrones for judgment are placed, thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you prosper;

<sup>7</sup> may there be peace within your walls, prosperity within your fortresses."

<sup>8</sup> Because of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be with you."

<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

**123** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. I lift my eyes to You, the One enthroned in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> Like a servant's eyes on His master's hand, like a servant girl's eyes on her mistress's hand, so our eyes are on the LORD our God until He shows us favor.

<sup>3</sup> Show us favor, LORD, show us favor, for we've had more than enough contempt.

<sup>4</sup> We've had more than enough scorn from the arrogant and contempt from the proud.

**124** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic song of ascents. If the LORD had not been on our side--let Israel say--

<sup>2</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us,

<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us alive in their burning anger against us.

<sup>4</sup> Then the waters would have engulfed us; the torrent would have swept over us;

<sup>5</sup> the raging waters would have swept over us.

<sup>6</sup> Praise the LORD, who has not let us be ripped apart by their teeth.

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the hunter's net; the net is torn, and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**125** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion. It cannot be shaken; it remains forever.

<sup>2</sup> Jerusalem--the mountains surround her. And the LORD surrounds His people, both now and forever.

<sup>3</sup> The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the



righteous, so that the righteous will not apply their hands to injustice.

<sup>4</sup> Do what is good, LORD, to the good, to those whose hearts are upright.

<sup>5</sup> But as for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the LORD will banish them with the evildoers. Peace be with 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> Our mouths were filled with laughter then, and our tongues with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

<sup>3</sup> The LORD had done great things for us; we were joyful.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, LORD, like watercourses in the Negev.

<sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Though one goes along weeping, carrying the bag of seed, he will surely

come back with shouts of joy, carrying his sheaves.

**127** <sup>1</sup> A Solomonic song of ascents. Unless the LORD builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain; unless the LORD watches over a city, the watchman stays alert in vain.

<sup>2</sup> In vain you get up early and stay up late, eating food earned by hard work; certainly He gives sleep to the one He loves.

<sup>3</sup> Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, children, a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one's youth.

<sup>5</sup> Happy is the man who has filled his quiver with them. Such men will never be put to shame when they speak with their enemies at the city gate.

**128** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. How happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways!

<sup>2</sup> You will surely eat what your hands have worked for. You will be happy, and it will go well for you.

<sup>3</sup> Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house, your sons, like young olive trees around your table.

<sup>4</sup> In this very way the man who fears the LORD will be blessed.

<sup>5</sup> May the LORD bless you from Zion, so that you will see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life,

<sup>6</sup> and will see your children's children! Peace be with Israel.

**129** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. Since my youth they have often attacked me--let Israel say--

<sup>2</sup> Since my youth they have often attacked me, but they have not prevailed against me.

<sup>3</sup> Plowmen plowed over my back; they made their furrows long.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD is righteous; He has cut the ropes of the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Let all who hate Zion be driven back in disgrace.

<sup>6</sup> Let them be like grass on the rooftops, which withers before it grows up

<sup>7</sup> and can't even fill the hands of the reaper or the arms of the one who binds sheaves.

<sup>8</sup> Then none who pass by will say, "May the LORD's blessing be on you." We bless you in the name of the LORD.

**130** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. Out of the depths I call to You, LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Lord, listen to my voice; let Your ears be attentive to my cry for help.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, if You considered sins, Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But with You there is forgiveness, so that You may be revered.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD; I wait, and put my hope in His word.

<sup>6</sup> I wait for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning--more than watchmen for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> Israel, put your hope in the LORD. For there is faithful love with the LORD, and with Him is redemption in abundance.

<sup>8</sup> And He will redeem Israel from all its sins.

**131** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic song of ascents. LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I do not get involved with things too great or too difficult for me.

<sup>2</sup> Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself like a little weaned child with its mother; I am like a little child.

<sup>3</sup> Israel, put your hope in the LORD, both now and forever.

**132** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. LORD, remember David and all the hardships he endured,

<sup>2</sup> and how he swore an oath to the LORD, making a vow 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 allow my eyes to sleep or my eyelids to slumber

<sup>5</sup> until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

<sup>6</sup> We heard of the ark 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, LORD, come to Your resting place, You and the ark that shows Your strength.

<sup>9</sup> May Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and may Your godly people shout for joy.

<sup>10</sup> Because of Your servant David, do not reject Your anointed one.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD swore an oath to David, a promise He will not abandon: "I will set one of your descendants on your throne.

<sup>12</sup> If your sons keep My covenant and My decrees that I will teach them, their sons will also sit on your throne, forever."

<sup>13</sup> For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His home:

<sup>14</sup> "This is My resting place forever; I will make My home here because I have desired it.

<sup>15</sup> I will abundantly bless its food; I will satisfy its needy with bread.

<sup>16</sup> I will clothe its priests with salvation, and its godly people will shout for joy.

<sup>17</sup> There I will make a horn grow for David; I have prepared a lamp for My anointed one.

<sup>18</sup> I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown he wears will be glorious."

**133** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic song of ascents.  
How good and pleasant it is  
when brothers can live together!

<sup>2</sup> It is like fine oil on the head, running  
down on the beard, running down  
Aaron's beard, on his robes.

<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon falling  
on the mountains of Zion. For there the  
LORD has appointed the blessing--life  
forevermore.

**134** <sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. Now  
praise the LORD, all you  
servants of the LORD who stand in the  
LORD's house at night!

<sup>2</sup> Lift up your hands in the holy place,  
and praise the LORD!

<sup>3</sup> May the LORD, Maker of heaven and  
earth, bless you from Zion.

**135** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the name  
of the LORD. Give praise, you  
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 praise to His name, for it is  
delightful.

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD has chosen Jacob  
for Himself, Israel as His treasured  
possession.

<sup>5</sup> For I know that the LORD is great; our  
Lord is greater than all gods.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD does whatever He pleases  
in heaven and on earth, in the seas and  
all the depths.

<sup>7</sup> He causes the clouds to rise from the  
ends of the earth. He makes lightning  
for the rain and brings the wind from His  
storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> He struck down the firstborn of Egypt,  
both people and animals.

<sup>9</sup> He sent signs and wonders against  
you, Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his  
officials.

<sup>10</sup> He struck down many nations and slaughtered mighty kings:

<sup>11</sup> Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kings of Canaan.

<sup>12</sup> He gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to His people Israel.

<sup>13</sup> LORD, Your name endures forever, Your reputation, LORD, through all generations.

<sup>14</sup> For the LORD will judge His people and have compassion on His servants.

<sup>15</sup> The idols of the nations are of silver and gold, made by human hands.

<sup>16</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.

<sup>17</sup> They have ears, but cannot hear; indeed, there is no breath in their mouths.

<sup>18</sup> Those who make them are just like them, as are all who trust in them.

<sup>19</sup> House of Israel, praise the LORD!  
House of Aaron, praise the LORD!

<sup>20</sup> House of Levi, praise the LORD! You who revere the LORD, praise the LORD!

<sup>21</sup> May the LORD be praised from Zion; He dwells in Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**136** <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love is eternal.

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods. His love is eternal.

<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His love is eternal.

<sup>4</sup> He alone does great wonders. His love is eternal.

<sup>5</sup> He made the heavens skillfully. His love is eternal.

<sup>6</sup> He spread the land on the waters. His love is eternal.

<sup>7</sup> He made the great lights: His love is eternal.

<sup>8</sup> the sun to rule by day, His love is eternal.

<sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to rule by night. His love is eternal.

<sup>10</sup> He struck the firstborn of the Egyptians His love is eternal.

<sup>11</sup> and brought Israel out from among them His love is eternal.

<sup>12</sup> with a strong hand and outstretched arm. His love is eternal.

<sup>13</sup> He divided the Red Sea His love is eternal.

<sup>14</sup> and led Israel through, His love is eternal.

<sup>15</sup> but hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea. His love is eternal.

<sup>16</sup> He led His people in the wilderness. His love is eternal.

<sup>17</sup> He struck down great kings His love is eternal.

<sup>18</sup> and slaughtered famous kings--His love is eternal.

<sup>19</sup> Sihon king of the Amorites His love is eternal.

<sup>20</sup> and Og king of Bashan--His love is eternal.

<sup>21</sup> and gave their land as an inheritance,  
His love is eternal.

<sup>22</sup> an inheritance to Israel His servant.  
His love is eternal.

<sup>23</sup> He remembered us in our humiliation  
His love is eternal.

<sup>24</sup> and rescued us from our foes. His  
love is eternal.

<sup>25</sup> He gives food to every creature. His  
love is eternal.

<sup>26</sup> Give thanks to the God of heaven!  
His love is eternal.

**137** <sup>1</sup> By the rivers of Babylon--  
there we sat down and wept  
when we remembered Zion.

<sup>2</sup> There we hung up our lyres on the  
poplar trees,

<sup>3</sup> for our captors there asked us for  
songs, and our tormentors, for rejoicing:  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

<sup>4</sup> How can we sing the LORD's song on  
foreign soil?

<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill .

<sup>6</sup> May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not exalt Jerusalem as my greatest joy!

<sup>7</sup> Remember, LORD, what the Edomites said that day at Jerusalem: "Destroy it! Destroy it down to its foundations!"

<sup>8</sup> Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is the one who pays you back what you have done to us.

<sup>9</sup> Happy is he who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rocks.

**138** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing Your praise before the heavenly beings.

<sup>2</sup> I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your constant love and faithfulness. You have exalted Your name and Your promise above everything else.

<sup>3</sup> On the day I called, You answered me;  
You increased strength within me.

<sup>4</sup> All the kings on earth will give You  
thanks, LORD, when they hear what You  
have promised.

<sup>5</sup> They will sing of the LORD's ways, for  
the LORD's glory is great.

<sup>6</sup> Though the LORD is exalted, He takes  
note of the humble; but He knows the  
haughty from afar.

<sup>7</sup> If I walk in the thick of danger, You  
will preserve my life from the anger of  
my enemies. You will extend Your hand;  
Your right hand will save me.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will fulfill His purpose for  
me. LORD, Your love is eternal; do not  
abandon the work of Your hands.

**139** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A  
Davidic psalm. LORD, You have  
searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away.

<sup>3</sup> You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD.

<sup>5</sup> You have encircled me; You have placed Your hand on me.

<sup>6</sup> This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I live at the eastern horizon or settle at the western limits,

<sup>10</sup> even there Your hand will lead me; Your right hand will hold on to me.



<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light around me will become night"--

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to You. The night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to You.

<sup>13</sup> For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I will praise You, because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well.

<sup>15</sup> My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began.

<sup>17</sup> God, how difficult Your thoughts are for me to comprehend ; how vast their sum is!

<sup>18</sup> If I counted them, they would outnumber the grains of sand; when I wake up, I am still with You.

<sup>19</sup> God, if only You would kill the wicked--you bloodthirsty men, stay away from me--

<sup>20</sup> who invoke You deceitfully. Your enemies swear by You falsely.

<sup>21</sup> LORD, don't I hate those who hate You, and detest those who rebel against You?

<sup>22</sup> I hate them with extreme hatred; I consider them my enemies.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

**140** <sup>1</sup> For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. Rescue me,

LORD, from evil men. Keep me safe from violent men

<sup>2</sup> who plan evil in their hearts. They stir up wars all day long.

<sup>3</sup> They make their tongues as sharp as a snake's bite; viper's venom is under their lips. Selah

<sup>4</sup> Protect me, LORD, from the clutches of the wicked. Keep me safe from violent men who plan to make me stumble.

<sup>5</sup> The proud hide a trap with ropes for me; they spread a net along the path and set snares for me. Selah

<sup>6</sup> I say to the LORD, "You are my God." Listen, LORD, to my cry for help.

<sup>7</sup> Lord GOD, my strong Savior, You shield my head on the day of battle.

<sup>8</sup> LORD, do not grant the desires of the wicked; do not let them achieve their goals. Otherwise, they will become proud. Selah

<sup>9</sup> As for the heads of those who surround me, let the trouble their lips cause overwhelm them .

<sup>10</sup> Let hot coals fall on them. Let them be thrown into the fire, into the abyss, never again to rise.

<sup>11</sup> Do not let a slanderer stay in the land. Let evil relentlessly hunt down a violent man.

<sup>12</sup> I know that the LORD upholds the just cause of the poor, justice for the needy.

<sup>13</sup> Surely the righteous will praise Your name; the upright will live in Your presence.

**141** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. LORD, I call on You; hurry to help me. Listen to my voice when I call on You.

<sup>2</sup> May my prayer be set before You as incense, the raising of my hands as the evening offering.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, set up a guard for my mouth;  
keep watch at the door of my lips.

<sup>4</sup> Do not let my heart turn to any evil  
thing or wickedly perform reckless acts  
with men who commit sin. Do not let me  
feast on their delicacies.

<sup>5</sup> Let the righteous one strike me--it is  
an act of faithful love; let him rebuke  
me--it is oil for my head; let me not  
refuse it. Even now my prayer is against  
the evil acts of the wicked.

<sup>6</sup> When their rulers will be thrown off  
the sides of a cliff, the people will listen  
to my words, for they are pleasing.

<sup>7</sup> As when one plows and breaks up the  
soil, turning up rocks , so our bones have  
been scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

<sup>8</sup> But my eyes look to You, Lord GOD. I  
seek refuge in You; do not let me die.

<sup>9</sup> Protect me from the trap they have  
set for me, and from the snares of  
evildoers.

<sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass safely by.

**142** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic Maskil. When he was in the cave. A prayer. I cry aloud to the LORD; I plead aloud to the LORD for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> I pour out my complaint before Him; I reveal my trouble to Him.

<sup>3</sup> Although my spirit is weak within me, You know my way. Along this path I travel they have hidden a trap for me.

<sup>4</sup> Look to the right and see: no one stands up for me; there is no refuge for me; no one cares about me.

<sup>5</sup> I cry to You, LORD; I say, "You are my shelter, my portion in the land of the living."

<sup>6</sup> Listen to my cry, for I am very weak. Rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

<sup>7</sup> Free me from prison so that I can praise Your name. The righteous will

gather around me because You deal generously with me.

**143** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic psalm. LORD, hear my prayer. In Your faithfulness listen to my plea, and in Your righteousness answer me.

<sup>2</sup> Do not bring Your servant into judgment, for no one alive is righteous in Your sight.

<sup>3</sup> For the enemy has pursued me, crushing me to the ground, making me live in darkness like those long dead.

<sup>4</sup> My spirit is weak within me; my heart is overcome with dismay.

<sup>5</sup> I remember the days of old; I meditate on all You have done; I reflect on the work of Your hands.

<sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to You; I am like parched land before You. Selah

<sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, LORD; my spirit fails. Don't hide Your face from me, or I will be like those going down to the Pit.

<sup>8</sup> Let me experience Your faithful love in the morning, for I trust in You. Reveal to me the way I should go, because I long for You.

<sup>9</sup> Rescue me from my enemies, LORD; I come to You for protection.

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. May Your gracious Spirit lead me on level ground.

<sup>11</sup> Because of Your name, Yahweh, let me live. In Your righteousness deliver me from trouble,

<sup>12</sup> and in Your faithful love destroy my enemies. Wipe out all those who attack me, for I am Your servant.

**144** <sup>1</sup> Davidic. May the LORD my rock be praised, who trains my hands for battle and my fingers for warfare.

<sup>2</sup> He is my faithful love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer. He is



my shield, and I take refuge in Him; He subdues my people under me.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, what is man, that You care for him, 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> LORD, part Your heavens and come down. Touch the mountains, and they will smoke.

<sup>6</sup> Flash Your lightning and scatter the foe; shoot Your arrows and rout them.

<sup>7</sup> Reach down from on high; rescue me from deep water, and set me free from the grasp of foreigners

<sup>8</sup> whose mouths speak lies, whose right hands are deceptive.

<sup>9</sup> God, I will sing a new song to You; I will play on a ten-stringed harp for You--

<sup>10</sup> the One who gives victory to kings, who frees His servant David from the deadly sword.

<sup>11</sup> Set me free and rescue me from the grasp of foreigners whose mouths speak lies, whose right hands are deceptive.

<sup>12</sup> Then our sons will be like plants nurtured in their youth, our daughters, like corner pillars that are carved in the palace style.

<sup>13</sup> Our storehouses will be full, supplying all kinds of produce; our flocks will increase by thousands and tens of thousands in our open fields.

<sup>14</sup> Our cattle will be well fed. There will be no breach in the walls , no going into captivity , and no cry of lament in our public squares.

<sup>15</sup> Happy are the people with such blessings . Happy are the people whose God is the LORD.

**145** <sup>1</sup> A Davidic hymn. I exalt You, my God the King, and praise Your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> I will praise You every day; I will honor Your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> Yahweh is great and is highly praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> One generation will declare Your works to the next and will proclaim Your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> I will speak of Your glorious splendor and Your wonderful works.

<sup>6</sup> They will proclaim the power of Your awe-inspiring works, and I will declare Your greatness.

<sup>7</sup> They will give a testimony of Your great goodness and will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to everyone; His compassion rests on all He has made.

<sup>10</sup> All You have made will praise You, LORD; the godly will bless You.

<sup>11</sup> They will speak of the glory of Your kingdom and will declare Your might,

<sup>12</sup> informing all people of Your mighty acts and of the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; Your rule is for all generations. The LORD is faithful in all His words and gracious in all His actions.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD helps all who fall; He raises up all who are oppressed.

<sup>15</sup> All eyes look to You, and You give them their food in due time.

<sup>16</sup> You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD is righteous in all His ways and gracious in all His acts.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near all who call out to Him, all who call out to Him with integrity.

<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry for help and saves them.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD guards all those who love Him, but He destroys all the wicked.

<sup>21</sup> My mouth will declare the LORD's praise; let every living thing praise His holy name forever and ever.

**146** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! My soul, praise the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> Do not trust in nobles, in man, who cannot save.

<sup>4</sup> When his breath leaves him, he returns to the ground; on that day his plans die.

<sup>5</sup> Happy is the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

<sup>6</sup> the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them. He remains faithful forever,

<sup>7</sup> executing justice for the exploited and giving food to the hungry. The LORD frees prisoners.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD raises up those who are oppressed. The LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD protects foreigners and helps the fatherless and the widow, but He frustrates the ways of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD reigns forever; Zion, your God reigns for all generations. Hallelujah!

**147** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! How good it is to sing to our God, for praise is pleasant and lovely.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; He gathers Israel's exiled people.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them.

<sup>5</sup> Our Lord is great, vast in power; His understanding is infinite.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD helps the afflicted but brings the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; play the lyre to our God,

<sup>8</sup> who covers the sky with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, and causes grass to grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He provides the animals with their food, and the young ravens, what they cry for.

<sup>10</sup> He is not impressed by the strength of a horse; He does not value the power of a man.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD values those who fear Him, those who put their hope in His faithful love.

<sup>12</sup> Exalt the LORD, Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion!

<sup>13</sup> For He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your children within you.

<sup>14</sup> He endows your territory with prosperity; He satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> He sends His command throughout the earth; His word runs swiftly.

<sup>16</sup> He spreads snow like wool; He scatters frost like ashes;

<sup>17</sup> He throws His hailstones like crumbs. Who can withstand His cold?

<sup>18</sup> He sends His word and melts them; He unleashes His winds, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and judgments to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He has not done this for any nation; they do not know His judgments. Hallelujah!



**148** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! 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, 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> He set them in position forever and ever; He gave an order that will never pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, all sea monsters and ocean depths,

<sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and cloud, powerful wind that executes His command,

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle, creatures that crawl and flying birds,

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,

<sup>12</sup> young men as well as young women, old and young together.

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted. His majesty covers heaven and earth.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for His people, praise from all His godly ones, from the Israelites, the people close to Him. Hallelujah!

**149** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel celebrate its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise His name with dancing and make music 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 celebrate in triumphal glory; let them shout for joy on their beds.

<sup>6</sup> Let the exaltation of God be in their mouths and a two-edged sword in their hands,

<sup>7</sup> inflicting vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

<sup>8</sup> binding their kings with chains and their dignitaries with iron shackles,

<sup>9</sup> carrying out the judgment decreed against them. This honor is for all His godly people. Hallelujah!

**150** <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise God in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Praise Him for His powerful acts; praise Him for His abundant greatness.

<sup>3</sup> Praise Him with trumpet blast; praise Him with harp and lyre.

<sup>4</sup> Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with flute and strings.

<sup>5</sup> Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals.

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that breathes praise the LORD. Hallelujah!

# Proverbs

**1** <sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> For gaining wisdom and being instructed; for understanding insightful sayings;

<sup>3</sup> for receiving wise instruction in righteousness, justice, and integrity;

<sup>4</sup> for teaching shrewdness to the inexperienced, knowledge and discretion to a young man--

<sup>5</sup> a wise man will listen and increase his learning, and a discerning man will obtain guidance--

<sup>6</sup> for understanding a proverb or a parable, 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> Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and don't reject your mother's teaching,

<sup>9</sup> for they will be a garland of grace on your head and a gold chain around your neck.

<sup>10</sup> My son, if sinners entice you, don't be persuaded.

<sup>11</sup> If they say--"Come with us! Let's set an ambush and kill someone. Let's attack some innocent person just for fun!

<sup>12</sup> Let's swallow them alive, like Sheol, still healthy as they go down to the Pit.

<sup>13</sup> We'll find all kinds of valuable property and fill our houses with plunder.

<sup>14</sup> Throw in your lot with us, and we'll all share our money"--

<sup>15</sup> my son, don't travel that road with them or set foot on their path,

<sup>16</sup> because their feet run toward trouble and they hurry to commit murder.

<sup>17</sup> It is foolish to spread a net where any bird can see it,

<sup>18</sup> but they set an ambush to kill themselves; they attack their own lives.

<sup>19</sup> Such are the paths of all who pursue gain dishonestly; it takes the lives of those who profit from it.

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom calls out in the street; she raises her voice in the public squares.

<sup>21</sup> She cries out above the commotion; she speaks at the entrance of the city gates:

<sup>22</sup> "How long, foolish ones, will you love ignorance? How long will you mockers enjoy mocking and you fools hate knowledge?

<sup>23</sup> If you turn to my discipline, then I will pour out my spirit on you and teach you my words.

<sup>24</sup> Since I called out and you refused, extended my hand and no one paid attention,

<sup>25</sup> since you neglected all my counsel and did not accept my correction,

<sup>26</sup> I, in turn, 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 trouble and stress overcome you.

<sup>28</sup> Then they will call me, but I won't answer; they will search for me, but won't find me.

<sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge, didn't choose to fear the LORD,

<sup>30</sup> were not interested in my counsel, and rejected all my correction,



<sup>31</sup> they will eat the fruit of their way and be gluttoned with their own schemes.

<sup>32</sup> For the waywardness of the inexperienced will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them.

<sup>33</sup> But whoever listens to me will live securely and be free from the fear of danger."

**2** <sup>1</sup> My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,

<sup>2</sup> listening closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding;

<sup>3</sup> furthermore, if you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding,

<sup>4</sup> if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure,

<sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover 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 success for the upright;  
He is a shield for those who live with  
integrity

<sup>8</sup> so that He may guard the paths of  
justice and protect the way of His loyal  
followers.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand  
righteousness, justice, and integrity--  
every good path.

<sup>10</sup> For wisdom will enter your mind, and  
knowledge will delight your heart.

<sup>11</sup> Discretion will watch over you, and  
understanding will guard you,

<sup>12</sup> rescuing you from the way of  
evil--from the one who says perverse  
things,

<sup>13</sup> from those who abandon the right  
paths to walk in ways of darkness,

<sup>14</sup> from those who enjoy doing evil and  
celebrate perversity,

<sup>15</sup> whose paths are crooked, and whose  
ways are devious.

<sup>16</sup> It will rescue you from a forbidden woman, from a stranger with her flattering talk,

<sup>17</sup> who abandons the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God;

<sup>18</sup> for her house sinks down to death and her ways to the land of the departed spirits.

<sup>19</sup> None return who go to her; none reach the paths of life.

<sup>20</sup> So follow the way of good people, and keep to the paths of the righteous.

<sup>21</sup> For the upright will inhabit the land, and those of integrity will remain in it;

<sup>22</sup> but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous uprooted from it.

**3** <sup>1</sup> My son, don't forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commands;

<sup>2</sup> for they will bring you many days, a full life, and well-being.

<sup>3</sup> Never let loyalty and faithfulness leave you. Tie them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup> Then you will find favor and high regard in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding;

<sup>6</sup> think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

<sup>7</sup> Don't consider yourself to be wise; fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> This will be healing for your body and strengthening for your bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest;

<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

<sup>11</sup> Do not despise the LORD's instruction, my son, and do not loathe His discipline;

<sup>12</sup> for the LORD disciplines the one He loves, just as a father, the son he delights in.

<sup>13</sup> Happy is a man who finds wisdom and who acquires understanding,

<sup>14</sup> for she is more profitable than silver, and her revenue is better than gold.

<sup>15</sup> She is more precious than jewels; nothing you desire compares with her.

<sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand; in her left, riches and honor.

<sup>17</sup> Her ways are pleasant, and all her paths, peaceful.

<sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who embrace her, and those who hold on to her are happy.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD founded the earth by wisdom and established the heavens by understanding.

<sup>20</sup> By His knowledge the watery depths broke open, and the clouds dripped with dew.

<sup>21</sup> Maintain your competence and discretion. My son, don't lose sight of them.

<sup>22</sup> They will be life for you and adornment for your neck.

<sup>23</sup> Then you will go safely on your way; your foot will not stumble.

<sup>24</sup> When you lie down, you will not be afraid; you will lie down, and your sleep will be pleasant.

<sup>25</sup> Don't fear sudden danger or the ruin of the wicked when it comes,

<sup>26</sup> for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from a snare.

<sup>27</sup> When it is in your power, don't withhold good from the one to whom it is due.

<sup>28</sup> Don't say to your neighbor, "Go away! Come back later. I'll give it tomorrow"--when it is there with you.

<sup>29</sup> Don't plan any harm against your neighbor, for he trusts you and lives near you.

<sup>30</sup> Don't accuse anyone without cause, when he has done you no harm.

<sup>31</sup> Don't envy a violent man or choose any of his ways;

<sup>32</sup> for the devious are detestable to the LORD, but He is a friend to the upright.

<sup>33</sup> The LORD's curse is on the household of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous;

<sup>34</sup> He mocks those who mock, but gives grace to the humble.

<sup>35</sup> The wise will inherit honor, but He holds up fools to dishonor.

**4** <sup>1</sup> Listen, my sons, to a father's discipline, and pay attention so that you may gain understanding,

<sup>2</sup> for I am giving you good instruction.  
Don't abandon my teaching.

<sup>3</sup> When I was a son with my father,  
tender and precious to my mother,

<sup>4</sup> he taught me and said: "Your heart  
must hold on to my words. Keep my  
commands and live.

<sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding; don't  
forget or turn away from the words of  
my mouth.

<sup>6</sup> Don't abandon wisdom, and she will  
watch over you; love her, and she will  
guard you.

<sup>7</sup> Wisdom is supreme--so get wisdom.  
And whatever else you get, get  
understanding.

<sup>8</sup> Cherish her, and she will exalt you; if  
you embrace her, she will honor you.

<sup>9</sup> She will place a garland of grace on  
your head; she will give you a crown of  
beauty."



<sup>10</sup> Listen, my son. Accept my words, and you will live many years.

<sup>11</sup> I am teaching you the way of wisdom; I am guiding you on straight paths.

<sup>12</sup> When you walk, your steps will not be hindered; when you run, you will not stumble.

<sup>13</sup> Hold on to instruction; don't let go. Guard it, for it is your life.

<sup>14</sup> Don't set foot on the path of the wicked; don't proceed in the way of evil ones.

<sup>15</sup> Avoid it; don't travel on it. Turn away from it, and pass it by.

<sup>16</sup> For they can't sleep unless they have done what is evil; they are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble.

<sup>17</sup> They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

<sup>18</sup> The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, shining brighter and brighter until midday.

<sup>19</sup> But the way of the wicked is like the darkest gloom; they don't know what makes them stumble.

<sup>20</sup> My son, pay attention to my words; listen closely to my sayings.

<sup>21</sup> Don't lose sight of them; keep them within your heart.

<sup>22</sup> For they are life to those who find them, and health to one's whole body.

<sup>23</sup> Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.

<sup>24</sup> Don't let your mouth speak dishonestly, and don't let your lips talk deviously.

<sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look forward; fix your gaze straight ahead.

<sup>26</sup> Carefully consider the path for your feet, and all your ways will be established.

<sup>27</sup> Don't turn to the right or to the left;  
keep your feet away from evil.

**5** <sup>1</sup> My son, pay attention to my  
wisdom; listen closely to my  
understanding

<sup>2</sup> so that you may maintain discretion  
and your lips safeguard knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> Though the lips of the forbidden  
woman drip honey and her words are  
smoother than oil,

<sup>4</sup> in the end she's as bitter as wormwood  
and as sharp as a double-edged sword.

<sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death; her steps  
head straight for Sheol.

<sup>6</sup> She doesn't consider the path of life;  
she doesn't know that her ways are  
unstable.

<sup>7</sup> So now, my sons, listen to me, and  
don't turn away from the words of my  
mouth.

<sup>8</sup> Keep your way far from her. Don't go  
near the door of her house.

<sup>9</sup> Otherwise, you will give up your vitality to others and your years to someone cruel;

<sup>10</sup> strangers will drain your resources, and your earnings will end up in a foreigner's house.

<sup>11</sup> At the end of your life, you will lament when your physical body has been consumed,

<sup>12</sup> and you will say, "How I hated discipline, and how my heart despised correction.

<sup>13</sup> I didn't obey my teachers or listen closely to my mentors.

<sup>14</sup> I was on the verge of complete ruin before the entire community."

<sup>15</sup> Drink water from your own cistern, water flowing from your own well.

<sup>16</sup> Should your springs flow in the streets, streams of water in the public squares?

<sup>17</sup> They should be for you alone and not for you to share with strangers.

<sup>18</sup> Let your fountain be blessed, and take pleasure in the wife of your youth.

<sup>19</sup> A loving doe, a graceful fawn--let her breasts always satisfy you; be lost in her love forever.

<sup>20</sup> Why, my son, would you be infatuated with a forbidden woman or embrace the breast of a stranger?

<sup>21</sup> For a man's ways are before the LORD's eyes, and He considers all his paths.

<sup>22</sup> A wicked man's iniquities entrap him; he is entangled in the ropes of his own sin.

<sup>23</sup> He will die because there is no instruction, and be lost because of his great stupidity.

**6** <sup>1</sup> My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor or entered into an agreement with a stranger,

<sup>2</sup> you have been trapped by the words of your lips--ensnared by the words of your mouth.

<sup>3</sup> Do this, then, my son, and free yourself, for you have put yourself in your neighbor's power: Go, humble yourself, and plead with your neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> Don't give sleep to your eyes or slumber to your eyelids.

<sup>5</sup> Escape like a gazelle from a hunter, like a bird from a fowler's trap.

<sup>6</sup> Go to the ant, you slacker! Observe its ways and become wise.

<sup>7</sup> Without leader, administrator, or ruler,

<sup>8</sup> it prepares its provisions in summer; it gathers its food during harvest.

<sup>9</sup> How long will you stay in bed, you slacker? When will you get up from your sleep?

<sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest,

<sup>11</sup> and your poverty will come like a robber, your need, like a bandit.

<sup>12</sup> A worthless person, a wicked man, who goes around speaking dishonestly,

<sup>13</sup> who winks his eyes, signals with his feet, and gestures with his fingers,

<sup>14</sup> who plots evil with perversity in his heart--he stirs up trouble constantly.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore calamity will strike him suddenly; he will be shattered instantly--beyond recovery.

<sup>16</sup> Six things the LORD hates; in fact, seven are detestable to Him:

<sup>17</sup> arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,

<sup>18</sup> a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil,

<sup>19</sup> a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

<sup>20</sup> My son, keep your father's command, and don't reject your mother's teaching.

<sup>21</sup> Always bind them to your heart; tie them around your neck.

<sup>22</sup> When you walk here and there, they will guide you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; when you wake up, they will talk to you.

<sup>23</sup> For a commandment is a lamp, teaching is a light, and corrective instructions are the way to life.

<sup>24</sup> They will protect you from an evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a stranger.

<sup>25</sup> Don't lust in your heart for her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyelashes.

<sup>26</sup> For a prostitute's fee is only a loaf of bread, but an adulteress goes after your very life.

<sup>27</sup> Can a man embrace fire and his clothes not be burned?

<sup>28</sup> Can a man walk on coals without scorching his feet?



<sup>29</sup> So it is with the one who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.

<sup>30</sup> People don't despise the thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry.

<sup>31</sup> Still, if caught, he must pay seven times as much; he must give up all the wealth in his house.

<sup>32</sup> The one who commits adultery lacks sense; whoever does so destroys himself.

<sup>33</sup> He will get a beating and dishonor, and his disgrace will never be removed.

<sup>34</sup> For jealousy enrages a husband, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.

<sup>35</sup> He will not be appeased by anything or be persuaded by lavish gifts.

**7** <sup>1</sup> My son, obey my words, and treasure my commands.

<sup>2</sup> Keep my commands and live; protect my teachings as you would the pupil of your eye.

<sup>3</sup> Tie them to your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup> Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your relative.

<sup>5</sup> She will keep you from a forbidden woman, a stranger with her flattering talk.

<sup>6</sup> At the window of my house I looked through my lattice.

<sup>7</sup> I saw among the inexperienced, I noticed among the youths, a young man lacking sense.

<sup>8</sup> Crossing the street near her corner, he strolled down the road to her house

<sup>9</sup> at twilight, in the evening, in the dark of the night.

<sup>10</sup> A woman came to meet him, dressed like a prostitute, having a hidden agenda.

<sup>11</sup> She is loud and defiant; her feet do not stay at home.

<sup>12</sup> Now in the street, now in the squares, she lurks at every corner.

<sup>13</sup> She grabs him and kisses him; she brazenly says to him,

<sup>14</sup> "I've made fellowship offerings; today I've fulfilled my vows.

<sup>15</sup> So I came out to meet you, to search for you, and I've found you.

<sup>16</sup> I've spread coverings on my bed--richly colored linen from Egypt.

<sup>17</sup> I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

<sup>18</sup> Come, let's drink deeply of lovemaking until morning. Let's feast on each other's love!

<sup>19</sup> My husband isn't home; he went on a long journey.

<sup>20</sup> He took a bag of money with him and will come home at the time of the full moon."

<sup>21</sup> She seduces him with her persistent pleading; she lures with her flattering talk.

<sup>22</sup> He follows her impulsively like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer bounding toward a trap

<sup>23</sup> until an arrow pierces its liver, like a bird darting into a snare--he doesn't know it will cost him his life.

<sup>24</sup> Now, my sons, listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth.

<sup>25</sup> Don't let your heart turn aside to her ways; don't stray onto her paths.

<sup>26</sup> For she has brought many down to death; her victims are countless.

<sup>27</sup> Her house is the road to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Doesn't Wisdom call out? Doesn't Understanding make her voice heard?

<sup>2</sup> At the heights overlooking the road, at the crossroads, she takes her stand.

<sup>3</sup> Beside the gates at the entry to the city, at the main entrance, she cries out:

<sup>4</sup> "People, I call out to you; my cry is to mankind.

<sup>5</sup> Learn to be shrewd, you who are inexperienced; develop common sense, you who are foolish.

<sup>6</sup> Listen, for I speak of noble things, and what my lips say is right.

<sup>7</sup> For my mouth tells the truth, and wickedness is detestable to my lips.

<sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth are righteous; none of them are deceptive or perverse.

<sup>9</sup> All of them are clear to the perceptive, and right to those who discover knowledge.

<sup>10</sup> Accept my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold.

<sup>11</sup> For wisdom is better than precious stones, and nothing desirable can compare with it.

<sup>12</sup> I, Wisdom, share a home with shrewdness and have knowledge and discretion.

<sup>13</sup> To fear the LORD is to hate evil. I hate arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech.

<sup>14</sup> I possess good advice and competence; I have understanding and strength.

<sup>15</sup> It is by me that kings reign and rulers enact just law;

<sup>16</sup> by me, princes lead, as do nobles and all righteous judges.

<sup>17</sup> I love those who love me, and those who search for me find me.

<sup>18</sup> With me are riches and honor, lasting wealth and righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> My fruit is better than solid gold, and my harvest than pure silver.

<sup>20</sup> I walk in the way of righteousness,  
along the paths of justice,

<sup>21</sup> giving wealth as an inheritance to  
those who love me, and filling their  
treasuries.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD made me at the beginning  
of His creation, before His works of long  
ago.

<sup>23</sup> I was formed before ancient times,  
from the beginning, before the earth  
began.

<sup>24</sup> I was brought forth when there were  
no watery depths and no springs filled  
with water.

<sup>25</sup> I was brought forth before the  
mountains and hills were established,

<sup>26</sup> before He made the land, the fields,  
or the first soil on earth.

<sup>27</sup> I was there when He established the  
heavens, when He laid out the horizon  
on the surface of the ocean,

<sup>28</sup> when He placed the skies above,  
when the fountains of the ocean gushed  
forth,

<sup>29</sup> when He set a limit for the sea  
so that the waters would not violate  
His command, when He laid out the  
foundations of the earth.

<sup>30</sup> I was a skilled craftsman beside  
Him. I was His delight every day, always  
rejoicing before Him.

<sup>31</sup> I was rejoicing in His inhabited world,  
delighting in the human race.

<sup>32</sup> And now, my sons, listen to me;  
those who keep my ways are happy.

<sup>33</sup> Listen to instruction and be wise;  
don't ignore it.

<sup>34</sup> Anyone who listens to me is happy,  
watching at my doors every day, waiting  
by the posts of my doorway.

<sup>35</sup> For the one who finds me finds life  
and obtains favor from the LORD,



<sup>36</sup> but the one who sins against me harms himself; all who hate me love death."

**9** <sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house; she has carved out her seven pillars.

<sup>2</sup> She has prepared her meat; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

<sup>3</sup> She has sent out her servants; she calls out from the highest points of the city:

<sup>4</sup> "Whoever is inexperienced, enter here!" To the one who lacks sense, she says,

<sup>5</sup> "Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup> Leave inexperience behind, and you will live; pursue the way of understanding.

<sup>7</sup> The one who corrects a mocker will bring dishonor on himself; the one who rebukes a wicked man will get hurt.

<sup>8</sup> Don't rebuke a mocker, or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

<sup>9</sup> Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man, and he will learn more.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

<sup>11</sup> For by Wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

<sup>12</sup> If you are wise, you are wise for your own benefit; if you mock, you alone will bear the consequences ."

<sup>13</sup> The woman Folly is rowdy; she is gullible and knows nothing.

<sup>14</sup> She sits by the doorway of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city,

<sup>15</sup> calling to those who pass by, who go straight ahead on their paths:

<sup>16</sup> "Whoever is inexperienced, enter here!" To the one who lacks sense, she says,

<sup>17</sup> "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten secretly is tasty!"

<sup>18</sup> But he doesn't know that the departed spirits are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Solomon's proverbs: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son, heartache to his mother.

<sup>2</sup> Ill-gotten gains do not profit anyone, but righteousness rescues from death.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let the righteous go hungry, but He denies the wicked what they crave.

<sup>4</sup> Idle hands make one poor, but diligent hands bring riches.

<sup>5</sup> The son who gathers during summer is prudent; the son who sleeps during harvest is disgraceful.

<sup>6</sup> Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

<sup>7</sup> The remembrance of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

<sup>8</sup> A wise heart accepts commands, but foolish lips will be destroyed.

<sup>9</sup> The one who lives with integrity lives securely, but whoever perverts his ways will be found out.

<sup>10</sup> A sly wink of the eye causes grief, and foolish lips will be destroyed.

<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 conflicts, but love covers all offenses.

<sup>13</sup> Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of the one who lacks sense.

<sup>14</sup> The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of the fool hastens destruction.

<sup>15</sup> A rich man's wealth is his fortified city; the poverty of the poor is their destruction.

<sup>16</sup> The labor of the righteous leads to life; the activity of the wicked leads to sin.

<sup>17</sup> The one who follows instruction is on the path to life, but the one who rejects correction goes astray.

<sup>18</sup> The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

<sup>19</sup> When there are many words, sin is unavoidable, but the one who controls his lips is wise.

<sup>20</sup> The tongue of the righteous is pure silver; the heart of the wicked is of little value.

<sup>21</sup> The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD's blessing enriches, and struggle adds nothing to it.

<sup>23</sup> As shameful conduct is pleasure for a fool, so wisdom is for a man of understanding.

<sup>24</sup> What the wicked dreads will come to him, but what the righteous desires will be given to him.

<sup>25</sup> When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are no more, but the righteous are secure forever.

<sup>26</sup> Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so the slacker is to the one who sends him on an errand .

<sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

<sup>28</sup> The hope of the righteous is joy, but the expectation of the wicked comes to nothing.

<sup>29</sup> The way of the LORD is a stronghold for the honorable, but destruction awaits the malicious.

<sup>30</sup> The righteous will never be shaken, but the wicked will not remain on the earth.

<sup>31</sup> The mouth of the righteous produces wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out.

<sup>32</sup> The lips of the righteous know what is appropriate, but the mouth of the wicked, only what is perverse.

**11** <sup>1</sup> Dishonest scales are detestable to the LORD, but an accurate weight is His delight.

<sup>2</sup> When pride comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom.

<sup>3</sup> The integrity of the upright guides them, but the perversity of the treacherous destroys them.

<sup>4</sup> Wealth is not profitable on a day of wrath, but righteousness rescues from death.

<sup>5</sup> The righteousness of the blameless clears his path, but the wicked person will fall because of his wickedness.

<sup>6</sup> The righteousness of the upright rescues them, but the treacherous are trapped by their own desires.

<sup>7</sup> When the wicked dies, his expectation comes to nothing, and hope placed in wealth vanishes.

<sup>8</sup> The righteous is rescued from trouble; in his place, the wicked goes in.

<sup>9</sup> With his mouth the ungodly destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous are rescued.

<sup>10</sup> When the righteous thrive, a city rejoices, and when the wicked die, there is joyful shouting.

<sup>11</sup> A city is built up by the blessing of the upright, but it is torn down by the mouth of the wicked.



<sup>12</sup> Whoever shows contempt for his neighbor lacks sense, but a man with understanding keeps silent.

<sup>13</sup> A gossip goes around revealing a secret, but the trustworthy keeps a confidence.

<sup>14</sup> Without guidance, people fall, but with many counselors there is deliverance.

<sup>15</sup> If someone puts up security for a stranger, he will suffer for it, but the one who hates such agreements is protected.

<sup>16</sup> A gracious woman gains honor, but violent men gain only riches.

<sup>17</sup> A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings disaster on himself.

<sup>18</sup> The wicked man earns an empty wage, but the one who sows righteousness, a true reward.

<sup>19</sup> Genuine righteousness leads to life, but pursuing evil leads to death.

<sup>20</sup> Those with twisted minds are detestable to the LORD, but those with blameless conduct are His delight.

<sup>21</sup> Be assured that the wicked will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will escape.

<sup>22</sup> A beautiful woman who rejects good sense is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

<sup>23</sup> The desire of the righteous turns out well, but the hope of the wicked leads to wrath.

<sup>24</sup> One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor.

<sup>25</sup> A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.

<sup>26</sup> People will curse anyone who hoards grain, but a blessing will come to the one who sells it.

<sup>27</sup> The one who searches for what is good finds favor, but if someone looks for trouble, it will come to him.

<sup>28</sup> Anyone trusting in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.

<sup>29</sup> The one who brings ruin on his household will inherit the wind, and a fool will be a slave to someone whose heart is wise.

<sup>30</sup> The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but violence takes lives.

<sup>31</sup> If the righteous will be repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and sinful.

**12** <sup>1</sup> Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but one who hates correction is stupid.

<sup>2</sup> The good obtain favor from the LORD, but He condemns a man who schemes.

<sup>3</sup> Man cannot be made secure by wickedness, but the root of the righteous is immovable.

<sup>4</sup> A capable wife is her husband's crown, but a wife who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

<sup>5</sup> The thoughts of the righteous are just, but guidance from the wicked leads to deceit.

<sup>6</sup> The words of the wicked are a deadly ambush, but the speech of the upright rescues them.

<sup>7</sup> The wicked are overthrown and perish, but the house of the righteous will stand.

<sup>8</sup> A man is praised for his insight, but a twisted mind is despised.

<sup>9</sup> Better to be dishonored, yet have a servant, than to act important but have no food.

<sup>10</sup> A righteous man cares about his animal's health, but even the merciful acts of the wicked are cruel.

<sup>11</sup> The one who works his land will have plenty of food, but whoever chases fantasies lacks sense.

<sup>12</sup> The wicked desire what evil men have, but the root of the righteous produces fruit .

<sup>13</sup> An evil man is trapped by his rebellious speech, but the righteous escapes from trouble.

<sup>14</sup> A man will be satisfied with good by the words of his mouth, and the work of a man's hands will reward him.

<sup>15</sup> A fool's way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise.

<sup>16</sup> A fool's displeasure is known at once, but whoever ignores an insult is sensible.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever speaks the truth declares what is right, but a false witness, deceit.

<sup>18</sup> There is one who speaks rashly, like a piercing sword; but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

<sup>19</sup> Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue, only a moment.

<sup>20</sup> Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.

<sup>21</sup> No disaster overcomes the righteous, but the wicked are full of misery.

<sup>22</sup> Lying lips are detestable to the LORD, but faithful people are His delight.

<sup>23</sup> A shrewd person conceals knowledge, but a foolish heart publicizes stupidity.

<sup>24</sup> The diligent hand will rule, but laziness will lead to forced labor.

<sup>25</sup> Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good word cheers it up.

<sup>26</sup> A righteous man is careful in dealing with his neighbor, but the ways of wicked men lead them astray.

<sup>27</sup> A lazy man doesn't roast his game, but to a diligent man, his wealth is precious.

<sup>28</sup> There is life in the path of righteousness, but another path leads to death.

**13** <sup>1</sup> A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a mocker doesn't listen to rebuke.

<sup>2</sup> From the words of his mouth, a man will enjoy good things, but treacherous people have an appetite for violence.

<sup>3</sup> The one who guards his mouth protects his life; the one who opens his lips invites his own ruin.

<sup>4</sup> The slacker craves, yet has nothing, but the diligent is fully satisfied.

<sup>5</sup> The righteous hate lying, but the wicked act disgustingly and disgracefully.

<sup>6</sup> Righteousness guards people of integrity, but wickedness undermines the sinner.

<sup>7</sup> One man pretends to be rich but has nothing; another pretends to be poor but has great wealth.

<sup>8</sup> Riches are a ransom for a man's life, but a poor man hears no threat.

<sup>9</sup> The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is extinguished.

<sup>10</sup> Arrogance leads to nothing but strife, but wisdom is gained by those who take advice.

<sup>11</sup> Wealth obtained by fraud will dwindle, but whoever earns it through labor will multiply it.

<sup>12</sup> Delayed hope makes the heart sick, but fulfilled desire is a tree of life.

<sup>13</sup> The one who has contempt for instruction will pay the penalty, but the one who respects a command will be rewarded.



<sup>14</sup> A wise man's instruction is a fountain of life, turning people away from the snares of death.

<sup>15</sup> Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous never changes.

<sup>16</sup> Every sensible person acts knowledgeably, but a fool displays his stupidity.

<sup>17</sup> A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy courier brings healing.

<sup>18</sup> Poverty and disgrace come to those who ignore instruction, but the one who accepts rebuke will be honored.

<sup>19</sup> Desire fulfilled is sweet to the taste, but fools hate to turn from evil.

<sup>20</sup> The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

<sup>21</sup> Disaster pursues sinners, but good rewards the righteous.

<sup>22</sup> A good man leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

<sup>23</sup> The field of the poor yields abundant food, but without justice, it is swept away.

<sup>24</sup> The one who will not use the rod hates his son, but the one who loves him disciplines him diligently.

<sup>25</sup> A righteous man eats until he is satisfied, but the stomach of the wicked is empty.

**14** <sup>1</sup> Every wise woman builds her house, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands.

<sup>2</sup> Whoever lives with integrity fears the LORD, but the one who is devious in his ways despises Him.

<sup>3</sup> The proud speech of a fool brings a rod of discipline, but the lips of the wise protect them.

<sup>4</sup> Where there are no oxen, the feeding-trough is empty, but an abundant harvest comes through the strength of an ox.

<sup>5</sup> An honest witness does not deceive, but a dishonest witness utters lies.

<sup>6</sup> A mocker seeks wisdom and doesn't find it, but knowledge comes easily to the perceptive.

<sup>7</sup> Stay away from a foolish man; you will gain no knowledge from his speech.

<sup>8</sup> The sensible man's wisdom is to consider his way, but the stupidity of fools deceives them .

<sup>9</sup> Fools mock at making restitution, but there is goodwill among the upright.

<sup>10</sup> The heart knows its own bitterness, and no outsider shares in its joy.

<sup>11</sup> The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will stand.

<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 a heart may be sad, and joy may end in grief.

<sup>14</sup> The disloyal will get what their conduct deserves, and a good man, what his deeds deserve.

<sup>15</sup> The inexperienced believe anything, but the sensible watch their steps.

<sup>16</sup> A wise man is cautious and turns from evil, but a fool is easily angered and is careless.

<sup>17</sup> A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man who schemes is hated.

<sup>18</sup> The gullible inherit foolishness, but the sensible are crowned with knowledge.

<sup>19</sup> The evil bow before those who are good, the wicked, at the gates of the righteous.

<sup>20</sup> A poor man is hated even by his neighbor, but there are many who love the rich.

<sup>21</sup> The one who despises his neighbor sins, but whoever shows kindness to the poor will be happy.

<sup>22</sup> Don't those who plan evil go astray? But those who plan good find loyalty and faithfulness.

<sup>23</sup> There is profit in all hard work, but endless talk leads only to poverty.

<sup>24</sup> The crown of the wise is their wealth, but the foolishness of fools produces foolishness.

<sup>25</sup> A truthful witness rescues lives, but one who utters lies is deceitful.

<sup>26</sup> In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence and his children have a refuge.

<sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death.

<sup>28</sup> A large population is a king's splendor, but a shortage of people is a ruler's devastation.

<sup>29</sup> A patient person shows great understanding, but a quick-tempered one promotes foolishness.

<sup>30</sup> A tranquil heart is life to the body, but jealousy is rottenness to the bones.

<sup>31</sup> The one who oppresses the poor insults their Maker, but one who is kind to the needy honors Him.

<sup>32</sup> The wicked are thrown down by their own sin, but the righteous have a refuge when they die.

<sup>33</sup> Wisdom resides in the heart of the discerning; she is known even among fools.

<sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

<sup>35</sup> A king favors a wise servant, but his anger falls on a disgraceful one.

**15** <sup>1</sup> A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

<sup>2</sup> The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness.

<sup>3</sup> The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, observing the wicked and the good.

<sup>4</sup> The tongue that heals is a tree of life, but a devious tongue breaks the spirit.

<sup>5</sup> A fool despises his father's instruction, but a person who heeds correction is sensible.

<sup>6</sup> The house of the righteous has great wealth, but trouble accompanies the income of the wicked.

<sup>7</sup> The lips of the wise broadcast knowledge, but not so the heart of fools.

<sup>8</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but He loves the one who pursues righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> Discipline is harsh for the one who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die.

<sup>11</sup> Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD--how much more, human hearts.

<sup>12</sup> A mocker doesn't love one who corrects him; he will not consult the wise.

<sup>13</sup> A joyful heart makes a face cheerful, but a sad heart produces a broken spirit.

<sup>14</sup> A discerning mind seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

<sup>15</sup> All the days of the oppressed are miserable, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.

<sup>16</sup> Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure with turmoil.



<sup>17</sup> Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred.

<sup>18</sup> A hot-tempered man stirs up conflict, but a man slow to anger calms strife.

<sup>19</sup> A slacker's way is like a thorny hedge, but the path of the upright is a highway.

<sup>20</sup> A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish one despises his mother.

<sup>21</sup> Foolishness brings joy to one without sense, but a man with understanding walks a straight path.

<sup>22</sup> Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

<sup>23</sup> A man takes joy in giving an answer; and a timely word--how good that is!

<sup>24</sup> For the discerning the path of life leads upward, so that he may avoid going down to Sheol.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD destroys the house of the proud, but He protects the widow's territory.

<sup>26</sup> The LORD detests the plans of an evil man, but pleasant words are pure.

<sup>27</sup> The one who profits dishonestly troubles his household, but the one who hates bribes will live.

<sup>28</sup> The mind of the righteous person thinks before answering, but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil things.

<sup>29</sup> The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

<sup>30</sup> Bright eyes cheer the heart; good news strengthens the bones.

<sup>31</sup> An ear that listens to life-giving rebukes will be at home among the wise.

<sup>32</sup> Anyone who ignores instruction despises himself, but whoever listens to correction acquires good sense.

<sup>33</sup> The fear of the LORD is wisdom's instruction, and humility comes before honor.

**16** <sup>1</sup> The reflections of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> All a man's ways seem right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the motives.

<sup>3</sup> Commit your activities to the LORD and your plans will be achieved.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has prepared everything for His purpose--even the wicked for the day of disaster.

<sup>5</sup> Everyone with a proud heart is detestable to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

<sup>6</sup> Wickedness is atoned for by loyalty and faithfulness, and one turns from evil by the fear of the LORD.

<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 a little with righteousness than great income with injustice.

<sup>9</sup> A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps.

<sup>10</sup> God's verdict is on the lips of a king; his mouth should not err in judgment.

<sup>11</sup> Honest balances and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are His concern.

<sup>12</sup> Wicked behavior is detestable to kings, since a throne is established through righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> Righteous lips are a king's delight, and he loves one who speaks honestly.

<sup>14</sup> A king's fury is a messenger of death, but a wise man appeases it.

<sup>15</sup> When a king's face lights up, there is life; his favor is like a cloud with spring rain.

<sup>16</sup> Acquire wisdom--how much better it is than gold! And acquire understanding--it is preferable to silver.

<sup>17</sup> The highway of the upright avoids evil; the one who guards his way protects his life.

<sup>18</sup> Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.

<sup>19</sup> Better to be lowly of spirit with the humble than to divide plunder with the proud.

<sup>20</sup> The one who understands a matter finds success, and the one who trusts in the LORD will be happy.

<sup>21</sup> Anyone with a wise heart is called discerning, and pleasant speech increases learning.

<sup>22</sup> Insight is a fountain of life for its possessor, but folly is the instruction of fools.

<sup>23</sup> A wise heart instructs its mouth and increases learning with its speech.

<sup>24</sup> Pleasant words are a honeycomb: sweet to the taste and health to the body.

<sup>25</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it is the way of death.

<sup>26</sup> A worker's appetite works for him because his hunger urges him on.

<sup>27</sup> A worthless man digs up evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

<sup>28</sup> A contrary man spreads conflict, and a gossip separates friends.

<sup>29</sup> A violent man lures his neighbor, leading him in a way that is not good.

<sup>30</sup> The one who narrows his eyes is planning deceptions; the one who compresses his lips brings about evil.

<sup>31</sup> Gray hair is a glorious crown; it is found in the way of righteousness.

<sup>32</sup> Patience is better than power, and controlling one's temper, than capturing 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 a dry crust with peace than a house full of feasting with strife.

<sup>2</sup> A wise servant will rule over a disgraceful son and share an inheritance among brothers.

<sup>3</sup> A crucible is for silver and a smelter for gold, but the LORD is a tester of hearts.

<sup>4</sup> A wicked person listens to malicious talk; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

<sup>5</sup> The one who mocks the poor insults his Maker, and one who rejoices over disaster will not go unpunished.

<sup>6</sup> Grandchildren are the crown of the elderly, and the pride of sons is their fathers.

<sup>7</sup> Excessive speech is not appropriate on a fool's lips; how much worse are lies for a ruler.

<sup>8</sup> A bribe seems like a magic stone to its owner; wherever he turns, he succeeds.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever conceals an offense promotes love, but whoever gossips about it separates friends.

<sup>10</sup> A rebuke cuts into a perceptive person more than a hundred lashes into a fool.

<sup>11</sup> An evil man seeks only rebellion; a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

<sup>12</sup> Better for a man to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his foolishness.

<sup>13</sup> If anyone returns evil for good, evil will never depart from his house.

<sup>14</sup> To start a conflict is to release a flood; stop the dispute before it breaks out.

<sup>15</sup> Acquitting the guilty and condemning the just--both are detestable to the LORD.



<sup>16</sup> Why does a fool have money in his hand with no intention of buying wisdom?

<sup>17</sup> A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a difficult time.

<sup>18</sup> One without sense enters an agreement and puts up security for his friend.

<sup>19</sup> One who loves to offend loves strife; one who builds a high threshold invites injury.

<sup>20</sup> One with a twisted mind will not succeed, and one with deceitful speech will fall into ruin.

<sup>21</sup> A man fathers a fool to his own sorrow; the father of a fool has no joy.

<sup>22</sup> A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

<sup>23</sup> A wicked man secretly takes a bribe to subvert the course of justice.

<sup>24</sup> Wisdom is the focus of the perceptive, but a fool's eyes roam to the ends of the earth.

<sup>25</sup> A foolish son is grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.

<sup>26</sup> It is certainly not good to fine an innocent person, or to beat a noble for his honesty.

<sup>27</sup> The intelligent person restrains his words, and one who keeps a cool head is a man of understanding.

<sup>28</sup> Even a fool is considered wise when he keeps silent, discerning, when he seals his lips.

**18** <sup>1</sup> One who isolates himself pursues selfish desires; he rebels against all sound judgment.

<sup>2</sup> A fool does not delight in understanding, but only wants to show off his opinions.

<sup>3</sup> When a wicked man comes, shame does also, and along with dishonor, disgrace.

<sup>4</sup> The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, a flowing river, a fountain of wisdom.

<sup>5</sup> It is not good to show partiality to the guilty by perverting the justice due the innocent.

<sup>6</sup> A fool's lips lead to strife, and his mouth provokes a beating.

<sup>7</sup> A fool's mouth is his devastation, and his lips are a trap for his life.

<sup>8</sup> A gossip's words are like choice food that goes down to one's innermost being.

<sup>9</sup> The one who is truly lazy in his work is brother to a vandal.

<sup>10</sup> The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are protected.

<sup>11</sup> A rich man's wealth is his fortified city; in his imagination it is like a high wall.

<sup>12</sup> Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but before honor comes humility.

<sup>13</sup> The one who gives an answer before he listens--this is foolishness and disgrace for him.

<sup>14</sup> A man's spirit can endure sickness, but who can survive a broken spirit?

<sup>15</sup> The mind of the discerning acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks it.

<sup>16</sup> A gift opens doors for a man and brings him before the great.

<sup>17</sup> The first to state his case seems right until another comes and cross-examines him.

<sup>18</sup> Casting the lot ends quarrels and separates powerful opponents.

<sup>19</sup> An offended brother is harder to reach than a fortified city, and quarrels are like the bars of a fortress.

<sup>20</sup> From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is satisfied; he is filled with the product of his lips.

<sup>21</sup> Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

<sup>22</sup> A man who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> The poor man pleads, but the rich one answers roughly.

<sup>24</sup> A man with many friends may be harmed, but there is a friend who stays closer than a brother.

**19** <sup>1</sup> Better a poor man who walks in integrity than someone who has deceitful lips and is a fool.

<sup>2</sup> Even zeal is not good without knowledge, and the one who acts hastily sins.

<sup>3</sup> A man's own foolishness leads him astray, yet his heart rages against the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Wealth attracts many friends, but a poor man is separated from his friend.

<sup>5</sup> A false witness will not go unpunished, and one who utters lies will not escape.

<sup>6</sup> Many seek the favor of a ruler, and everyone is a friend of one who gives gifts.

<sup>7</sup> All the brothers of a poor man hate him; how much more do his friends keep their distance from him! He may pursue them with words, but they are not there

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<sup>8</sup> The one who acquires good sense loves himself; one who safeguards understanding finds success.

<sup>9</sup> A false witness will not go unpunished, and one who utters lies perishes.

<sup>10</sup> Luxury is not appropriate for a fool--how much less for a slave to rule over princes!

<sup>11</sup> A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.

<sup>12</sup> A king's rage is like a lion's roar, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

<sup>13</sup> A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a wife's nagging is an endless dripping.

<sup>14</sup> A house and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a sensible wife is from the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Laziness induces deep sleep, and a lazy person will go hungry.

<sup>16</sup> The one who keeps commands preserves himself; one who disregards his ways will die.

<sup>17</sup> Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will give a reward to the lender.

<sup>18</sup> Discipline your son while there is hope; don't be intent on killing him.

<sup>19</sup> A person with great anger bears the penalty; if you rescue him, you'll have to do it again.

<sup>20</sup> Listen to counsel and receive instruction so that you may be wise in later life.

<sup>21</sup> Many plans are in a man's heart, but the LORD's decree will prevail.

<sup>22</sup> A man's desire should be loyalty to the covenant; better to be a poor man than a perjurer.

<sup>23</sup> The fear of the LORD leads to life; one will sleep at night without danger.

<sup>24</sup> The slacker buries his hand in the bowl; he doesn't even bring it back to his mouth.

<sup>25</sup> Strike a mocker, and the inexperienced learn a lesson; rebuke the discerning, and he gains knowledge.

<sup>26</sup> The one who assaults his father and evicts his mother is a disgraceful and shameful son.



<sup>27</sup> If you stop listening to instruction, my son, you will stray from the words of knowledge.

<sup>28</sup> A worthless witness mocks justice, and a wicked mouth swallows iniquity.

<sup>29</sup> Judgments are prepared for mockers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

**20** <sup>1</sup> Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.

<sup>2</sup> A king's terrible wrath is like the roaring of a lion; anyone who provokes him endangers himself.

<sup>3</sup> It is honorable for a man to resolve a dispute, but any fool can get himself into a quarrel.

<sup>4</sup> The slacker does not plow during planting season; at harvest time he looks, and there is nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Counsel in a man's heart is deep water; but a man of understanding draws it up.

<sup>6</sup> Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?

<sup>7</sup> The one who lives with integrity is righteous; his children who come after him will be happy.

<sup>8</sup> A king sitting on a throne to judge sifts out all evil with his eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am cleansed from my sin"?

<sup>10</sup> Differing weights and varying measures--both are detestable to the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Even a young man is known by his actions--by whether his behavior is pure and upright.

<sup>12</sup> The hearing ear and the seeing eye--the LORD made them both.

<sup>13</sup> Don't love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes, and you'll have enough to eat.

<sup>14</sup> "It's worthless, it's worthless!" the buyer says, but after he is on his way, he gloats.

<sup>15</sup> There is gold and a multitude of jewels, but knowledgeable lips are a rare treasure.

<sup>16</sup> Take his garment, for he has put up security for a stranger; get collateral if it is for foreigners.

<sup>17</sup> Food gained by fraud is sweet to a man, but afterwards his mouth is full of gravel.

<sup>18</sup> Finalize plans through counsel, and wage war with sound guidance.

<sup>19</sup> The one who reveals secrets is a constant gossip; avoid someone with a big mouth.

<sup>20</sup> Whoever curses his father or mother--his lamp will go out in deep darkness.

<sup>21</sup> An inheritance gained prematurely will not be blessed ultimately.

<sup>22</sup> Don't say, "I will avenge this evil!"  
Wait on the LORD, and He will rescue you.

<sup>23</sup> Differing weights are detestable to the LORD, and dishonest scales are unfair.

<sup>24</sup> A man's steps are determined by the LORD, so how can anyone understand his own way?

<sup>25</sup> It is a trap for anyone to dedicate something rashly and later to reconsider his vows.

<sup>26</sup> A wise king separates out the wicked and drives the threshing wheel over them.

<sup>27</sup> A person's breath is the lamp of the LORD, searching the innermost parts.

<sup>28</sup> Loyalty and faithfulness deliver a king; through loyalty he maintains his throne.

<sup>29</sup> The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is gray hair.

<sup>30</sup> Lashes and wounds purge away evil, and beatings cleanse the innermost parts.

**21** <sup>1</sup> A king's heart is a water channel in the LORD's hand: He directs it wherever He chooses.

<sup>2</sup> All the ways of a man seem right to him, but the LORD evaluates the motives.

<sup>3</sup> Doing what is righteous and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

<sup>4</sup> The lamp that guides the wicked--haughty eyes and an arrogant heart--is sin.

<sup>5</sup> The plans of the diligent certainly lead to profit, but anyone who is reckless only becomes poor.

<sup>6</sup> Making a fortune through a lying tongue is a vanishing mist, a pursuit of death.

<sup>7</sup> The violence of the wicked sweeps them away because they refuse to act justly.

<sup>8</sup> A guilty man's conduct is crooked, but the behavior of the innocent is upright.

<sup>9</sup> Better to live on the corner of a roof than to share a house with a nagging wife.

<sup>10</sup> A wicked person desires evil; he has no consideration for his neighbor.

<sup>11</sup> When a mocker is punished, the inexperienced become wiser; when one teaches a wise man, he acquires knowledge.

<sup>12</sup> The Righteous One considers the house of the wicked; He brings the wicked to ruin.

<sup>13</sup> The one who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will himself also call out and not be answered.

<sup>14</sup> A secret gift soothes anger, and a covert bribe, fierce rage.

<sup>15</sup> Justice executed is a joy to the righteous but a terror to those who practice iniquity.

<sup>16</sup> The man who strays from the way of wisdom will come to rest in the assembly of the departed spirits.

<sup>17</sup> The one who loves pleasure will become a poor man; whoever loves wine and oil will not get rich.

<sup>18</sup> The wicked are a ransom for the righteous, and the treacherous, for the upright.

<sup>19</sup> Better to live in a wilderness than with a nagging and hot-tempered wife.

<sup>20</sup> Precious treasure and oil are in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man consumes them.

<sup>21</sup> The one who pursues righteousness and faithful love will find life, righteousness, and honor.

<sup>22</sup> The wise conquer a city of warriors and bring down its mighty fortress.

<sup>23</sup> The one who guards his mouth and tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

<sup>24</sup> The proud and arrogant person, named "Mocker," acts with excessive pride.

<sup>25</sup> A slacker's craving will kill him because his hands refuse to work.

<sup>26</sup> He is filled with craving all day long, but the righteous give and don't hold back.

<sup>27</sup> The sacrifice of a wicked person is detestable--how much more so when he brings it with ulterior motives!

<sup>28</sup> A lying witness will perish, but the one who listens will speak successfully.

<sup>29</sup> A wicked man puts on a bold face, but the upright man considers his way.



<sup>30</sup> No wisdom, no understanding, and no counsel will prevail against the LORD.

<sup>31</sup> A horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory comes from the LORD.

**22** <sup>1</sup> A good name is to be chosen over great wealth; favor is better than silver and gold.

<sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD made them both.

<sup>3</sup> A sensible person sees danger and takes cover, but the inexperienced keep going and are punished.

<sup>4</sup> The result of humility is fear of the LORD, along with wealth, honor, and life.

<sup>5</sup> There are thorns and snares on the path of the crooked; the one who guards himself stays far from them.

<sup>6</sup> Teach a youth about the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

<sup>7</sup> The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is a slave to the lender.

<sup>8</sup> The one who sows injustice will reap disaster, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.

<sup>9</sup> A generous person will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

<sup>10</sup> Drive out a mocker, and conflict goes too; then lawsuits and dishonor will cease.

<sup>11</sup> The one who loves a pure heart and gracious lips--the king is his friend.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD's eyes keep watch over knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the treacherous.

<sup>13</sup> The slacker says, "There's a lion outside! I'll be killed in the streets!"

<sup>14</sup> The mouth of the forbidden woman is a deep pit; a man cursed by the LORD will fall into it.

<sup>15</sup> Foolishness is tangled up in the heart of a youth; the rod of discipline will drive it away from him.

<sup>16</sup> Oppressing the poor to enrich oneself, and giving to the rich--both lead only to poverty.

<sup>17</sup> Listen closely, pay attention to the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge.

<sup>18</sup> For it is pleasing if you keep them within you and if they are constantly on your lips.

<sup>19</sup> I have instructed you today--even you--so that your confidence may be in the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> Haven't I written for you thirty sayings about counsel and knowledge,

<sup>21</sup> in order to teach you true and reliable words, so that you may give a dependable report to those who sent you?

<sup>22</sup> Don't rob a poor man because he is poor, and don't crush the oppressed at the gate,

<sup>23</sup> for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.

<sup>24</sup> Don't make friends with an angry man, and don't be a companion of a hot-tempered man,

<sup>25</sup> or you will learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

<sup>26</sup> Don't be one of those who enter agreements, who put up security for loans.

<sup>27</sup> If you have no money to pay, even your bed will be taken from under you.

<sup>28</sup> Don't move an ancient property line that your fathers set up.

<sup>29</sup> Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand in the presence of kings. He will not stand in the presence of unknown men.

**23** <sup>1</sup> When you sit down to dine with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you,

<sup>2</sup> and stick a knife in your throat if you have a big appetite;

<sup>3</sup> don't desire his choice food, for that food is deceptive.

<sup>4</sup> Don't wear yourself out to get rich; stop giving your attention to it.

<sup>5</sup> As soon as your eyes fly to it, it disappears, for it makes wings for itself and flies like an eagle to the sky.

<sup>6</sup> Don't eat a stingy person's bread, and don't desire his choice food,

<sup>7</sup> for as he thinks within himself, so he is. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

<sup>8</sup> You will vomit the little you've eaten and waste your pleasant words.

<sup>9</sup> Don't speak to a fool, for he will despise the insight of your words.

<sup>10</sup> Don't move an ancient property line, and don't encroach on the fields of the fatherless,

<sup>11</sup> for their Redeemer is strong, and He will take up their case against you.

<sup>12</sup> Apply yourself to instruction and listen to words of knowledge.

<sup>13</sup> Don't withhold correction from a youth; if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

<sup>14</sup> Strike him with a rod, and you will rescue his life from Sheol.

<sup>15</sup> My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will indeed rejoice.

<sup>16</sup> My innermost being will cheer when your lips say what is right.

<sup>17</sup> Don't be jealous of sinners; instead, always fear the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> For then you will have a future, and your hope will never fade.

<sup>19</sup> Listen, my son, and be wise; keep your mind on the right course.

<sup>20</sup> Don't associate with those who drink too much wine, or with those who gorge themselves on meat.

<sup>21</sup> For the drunkard and the glutton will become poor, and grogginess will clothe them in rags.

<sup>22</sup> Listen to your father who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old.

<sup>23</sup> Buy--and do not sell--truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

<sup>24</sup> The father of a righteous son will rejoice greatly, and one who fathers a wise son will delight in him.

<sup>25</sup> Let your father and mother have joy, and let her who gave birth to 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, and a forbidden woman is a narrow well;

<sup>28</sup> indeed, she sets an ambush like a robber and increases those among men who are unfaithful.

<sup>29</sup> Who has woe? Who has sorrow?  
Who has conflicts? Who has complaints?

Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes?

<sup>30</sup> Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine.

<sup>31</sup> Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly.

<sup>32</sup> In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper.

<sup>33</sup> Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say absurd things.

<sup>34</sup> You'll be like someone sleeping out at sea or lying down on the top of a ship's mast.

<sup>35</sup> "They struck me, but I feel no pain! They beat me, but I didn't know it! When will I wake up? I'll look for another drink."  
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**24** <sup>1</sup> Don't envy evil men or desire to be with them,

<sup>2</sup> for their hearts plan violence, and their words stir up trouble.



<sup>3</sup> A house is built by wisdom, and it is established by understanding;

<sup>4</sup> by knowledge the rooms are filled with every precious and beautiful treasure.

<sup>5</sup> A wise warrior is better than a strong one, and a man of knowledge than one of strength;

<sup>6</sup> for you should wage war with sound guidance--victory comes with many counselors.

<sup>7</sup> Wisdom is inaccessible to a fool; he does not open his mouth at the gate.

<sup>8</sup> The one who plots evil will be called a schemer.

<sup>9</sup> A foolish scheme is sin, and a mocker is detestable to people.

<sup>10</sup> If you do nothing in a difficult time, your strength is limited.

<sup>11</sup> Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter.

<sup>12</sup> If you say, "But we didn't know about this," won't He who weighs hearts consider it? Won't He who protects your life know? Won't He repay a person according to his work?

<sup>13</sup> Eat honey, my son, for it is good, and the honeycomb is sweet to your palate;

<sup>14</sup> realize that wisdom is the same for you. If you find it, you will have a future, and your hope will never fade.

<sup>15</sup> Don't set an ambush, wicked man, at the camp of the righteous man; don't destroy his dwelling.

<sup>16</sup> Though a righteous man falls seven times, he will get up, but the wicked will stumble into ruin.

<sup>17</sup> Don't gloat when your enemy falls, and don't let your heart rejoice when he stumbles,

<sup>18</sup> or the LORD will see, be displeased, and turn His wrath away from him.

<sup>19</sup> Don't worry because of evildoers,  
and don't envy the wicked.

<sup>20</sup> For the evil have no future; the lamp  
of the wicked will be put out.

<sup>21</sup> My son, fear the LORD, as well as the  
king, and don't associate with rebels,

<sup>22</sup> for their destruction will come  
suddenly; who knows what disaster  
these two can bring?

<sup>23</sup> These sayings also belong to the  
wise: It is not good to show partiality in  
judgment.

<sup>24</sup> Whoever says to the guilty, "You are  
innocent"--people will curse him, and  
tribes will denounce him;

<sup>25</sup> but it will go well with those who  
convict the guilty, and a generous  
blessing will come to them.

<sup>26</sup> He who gives an honest answer gives  
a kiss on the lips.

<sup>27</sup> Complete your outdoor work, and prepare your field; afterwards, build your house.

<sup>28</sup> Don't testify against your neighbor without cause. Don't deceive with your lips.

<sup>29</sup> Don't say, "I'll do to him what he did to me; I'll repay the man for what he has done."

<sup>30</sup> I went by the field of a slacker and by the vineyard of a man lacking sense.

<sup>31</sup> Thistles had come up everywhere, weeds covered the ground, and the stone wall was ruined.

<sup>32</sup> I saw, and took it to heart; I looked, and received instruction:

<sup>33</sup> a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest,

<sup>34</sup> and your poverty will come like a robber, your need, like a bandit.

**25** <sup>1</sup> These too are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, copied.

<sup>2</sup> It is the glory of God to conceal a matter and the glory of kings to investigate a matter.

<sup>3</sup> As the heaven is high and the earth is deep, so the hearts of kings cannot be investigated.

<sup>4</sup> Remove impurities from silver, and a vessel will be produced for a silversmith.

<sup>5</sup> Remove the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

<sup>6</sup> Don't brag about yourself before the king, and don't stand in the place of the great;

<sup>7</sup> for it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here!" than to demote you in plain view of a noble.

<sup>8</sup> Don't take a matter to court hastily. Otherwise, what will you do afterwards if your opponent humiliates you?

<sup>9</sup> Make your case with your opponent without revealing another's secret;

<sup>10</sup> otherwise, the one who hears will disgrace you, and you'll never live it down.

<sup>11</sup> A word spoken at the right time is like golden apples on a silver tray.

<sup>12</sup> A wise correction to a receptive ear is like a gold ring or an ornament of gold.

<sup>13</sup> To those who send him, a trustworthy messenger is like the coolness of snow on a harvest day; he refreshes the life of his masters.

<sup>14</sup> The man who boasts about a gift that does not exist is like clouds and wind without rain.

<sup>15</sup> A ruler can be persuaded through patience, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

<sup>16</sup> If you find honey, eat only what you need; otherwise, you'll get sick from it and vomit.

<sup>17</sup> Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house; otherwise, he'll get sick of you and hate you.

<sup>18</sup> A man giving false testimony against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow.

<sup>19</sup> Trusting an unreliable person in a time of trouble is like a rotten tooth or a faltering foot.

<sup>20</sup> Singing songs to a troubled heart is like taking off clothing on a cold day, or like pouring vinegar on soda.

<sup>21</sup> If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;

<sup>22</sup> for you will heap coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

<sup>23</sup> The north wind produces rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.

<sup>24</sup> Better to live on the corner of a roof than in a house shared with a nagging wife.

<sup>25</sup> Good news from a distant land is like cold water to a parched throat.

<sup>26</sup> A righteous person who yields to the wicked is like a muddied spring or a polluted well.

<sup>27</sup> It is not good to eat too much honey, or to seek glory after glory.

<sup>28</sup> A man who does not control his temper is like a city whose wall is broken down.

**26** <sup>1</sup> Like snow in summer and rain at harvest, honor is inappropriate for a fool.

<sup>2</sup> Like a flitting sparrow or a fluttering swallow, an undeserved curse goes nowhere.

<sup>3</sup> A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the backs of fools.



<sup>4</sup> Don't answer a fool according to his foolishness, or you'll be like him yourself.

<sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his foolishness, or he'll become wise in his own eyes.

<sup>6</sup> The one who sends a message by a fool's hand cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

<sup>7</sup> A proverb in the mouth of a fool is like lame legs that hang limp.

<sup>8</sup> Giving honor to a fool is like binding a stone in a sling.

<sup>9</sup> A proverb in the mouth of a fool is like a stick with thorns, brandished by the hand of a drunkard.

<sup>10</sup> The one who hires a fool, or who hires those passing by, is like an archer who wounds everyone.

<sup>11</sup> As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.

<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 slacker says, "There's a lion in the road--a lion in the public square!"

<sup>14</sup> A door turns on its hinge, and a slacker, on his bed.

<sup>15</sup> The slacker buries his hand in the bowl; he is too weary to bring it to his mouth.

<sup>16</sup> In his own eyes, a slacker is wiser than seven men who can answer sensibly.

<sup>17</sup> A passerby who meddles in a quarrel that's not his is like one who grabs a dog by the ears.

<sup>18</sup> Like a madman who throws flaming darts and deadly arrows,

<sup>19</sup> so is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"

<sup>20</sup> Without wood, fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down.

<sup>21</sup> As charcoal for embers and wood for fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

<sup>22</sup> A gossip's words are like choice food that goes down to one's innermost being.

<sup>23</sup> Smooth lips with an evil heart are like glaze on an earthen vessel.

<sup>24</sup> A hateful person disguises himself with his speech and harbors deceit within.

<sup>25</sup> When he speaks graciously, don't believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart.

<sup>26</sup> Though his hatred is concealed by deception, his evil will be revealed in the assembly.

<sup>27</sup> The one who digs a pit will fall into it, and whoever rolls a stone--it will come back on him.

<sup>28</sup> A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth causes ruin.

**27** <sup>1</sup> Don't boast about tomorrow, for you don't know what a day might 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, a burden, but aggravation from a fool outweighs them both.

<sup>4</sup> Fury is cruel, and anger is a flood, but who can withstand jealousy?

<sup>5</sup> Better an open reprimand than concealed love.

<sup>6</sup> The wounds of a friend are trustworthy, but the kisses of an enemy are excessive.

<sup>7</sup> A person who is full tramples on a honeycomb, but to a hungry person, any bitter thing is sweet.

<sup>8</sup> A man wandering from his home is like a bird wandering from its nest.

<sup>9</sup> Oil and incense bring joy to the heart, and the sweetness of a friend is better than self-counsel.

<sup>10</sup> Don't abandon your friend or your father's friend, and don't go to your brother's house in your time of calamity; better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

<sup>11</sup> Be wise, my son, and bring my heart joy, so that I can answer anyone who taunts me.

<sup>12</sup> The sensible see danger and take cover; the foolish keep going and are punished.

<sup>13</sup> Take his garment, for he has put up security for a stranger; get collateral if it is for foreigners.

<sup>14</sup> If one blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be counted as a curse to him.

<sup>15</sup> An endless dripping on a rainy day and a nagging wife are alike.

<sup>16</sup> The one who controls her controls the wind and grasps oil with his 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 whoever looks after his master will be honored.

<sup>19</sup> As the water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person.

<sup>20</sup> Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and people's eyes are never satisfied.

<sup>21</sup> Silver is tested in a crucible, gold in a smelter, and a man, by the praise he receives.

<sup>22</sup> Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with grain, you will not separate his foolishness from him.

<sup>23</sup> Know well the condition of your flock, and pay attention to your herds,

<sup>24</sup> for wealth is not forever; not even a crown lasts for all time.

<sup>25</sup> When hay is removed and new growth appears and the grain from the hills is gathered in,

<sup>26</sup> lambs will provide your clothing, and goats, the price of a field;

<sup>27</sup> there will be enough goat's milk for your food--food for your household and nourishment for your servants.

**28** <sup>1</sup> The wicked flee when no one is pursuing them, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

<sup>2</sup> When a land is in rebellion, it has many rulers, but with a discerning and knowledgeable person, it endures.

<sup>3</sup> A destitute leader who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no food.

<sup>4</sup> Those who reject the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law battle against them.

<sup>5</sup> Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand everything.

<sup>6</sup> Better a poor man who lives with integrity than a rich man who distorts right and wrong.

<sup>7</sup> A discerning son keeps the law, but a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever increases his wealth through excessive interest collects it for one who is kind to the poor.

<sup>9</sup> Anyone who turns his ear away from hearing the law--even his prayer is detestable.

<sup>10</sup> The one who leads the upright into an evil way will fall into his own pit, but the blameless will inherit what is good.

<sup>11</sup> A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.



<sup>12</sup> When the righteous triumph, there is great rejoicing, but when the wicked come to power, people hide themselves.

<sup>13</sup> The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.

<sup>14</sup> Happy is the one who is always reverent, but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

<sup>15</sup> A wicked ruler over a helpless people is like a roaring lion or a charging bear.

<sup>16</sup> A leader who lacks understanding is very oppressive, but one who hates unjust gain prolongs his life.

<sup>17</sup> A man burdened by bloodguilt will be a fugitive until death. Let no one help him.

<sup>18</sup> The one who lives with integrity will be helped, but one who distorts right and wrong will suddenly fall.

<sup>19</sup> The one who works his land will have plenty of food, but whoever chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

<sup>20</sup> A faithful man will have many blessings, but one in a hurry to get rich will not go unpunished.

<sup>21</sup> It is not good to show partiality--yet a man may sin for a piece of bread.

<sup>22</sup> A greedy man is in a hurry for wealth; he doesn't know that poverty will come to him.

<sup>23</sup> One who rebukes a person will later find more favor than one who flatters with his tongue.

<sup>24</sup> The one who robs his father or mother and says, "That's no sin," is a companion to a man who destroys.

<sup>25</sup> A greedy person provokes conflict, but whoever trusts in the LORD will prosper.

<sup>26</sup> The one who trusts in himself is a fool, but one who walks in wisdom will be safe.

<sup>27</sup> The one who gives to the poor will not be in need, but one who turns his eyes away will receive many curses.

<sup>28</sup> When the wicked come to power, people hide, but when they are destroyed, the righteous flourish.

**29** <sup>1</sup> One who becomes stiff-necked, after many reprimands will be broken suddenly--and without a remedy.

<sup>2</sup> When the righteous flourish, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, people groan.

<sup>3</sup> A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but one who consorts with prostitutes destroys his wealth.

<sup>4</sup> By justice a king brings stability to a land, but a man who demands "contributions" demolishes it.

<sup>5</sup> A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

<sup>6</sup> An evil man is caught by sin, but the righteous one sings and rejoices.

<sup>7</sup> The righteous person knows the rights of the poor, but the wicked one does not understand these concerns.

<sup>8</sup> Mockers inflame a city, but the wise turn away anger.

<sup>9</sup> If a wise man goes to court with a fool, there will be ranting and raving but no resolution.

<sup>10</sup> Bloodthirsty men hate an honest person, but the upright care about him.

<sup>11</sup> A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man holds it in check.

<sup>12</sup> If a ruler listens to lies, all his servants will be wicked.

<sup>13</sup> The poor and the oppressor have this in common: the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

<sup>14</sup> A king who judges the poor with fairness--his throne will be established forever.

<sup>15</sup> A rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a youth left to himself is a disgrace to his mother.

<sup>16</sup> When the wicked increase, rebellion increases, but the righteous will see their downfall.

<sup>17</sup> Discipline your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also give you delight.

<sup>18</sup> Without revelation people run wild, but one who keeps the law will be happy.

<sup>19</sup> A servant cannot be disciplined by words; though he understands, he doesn't respond.

<sup>20</sup> Do you see a man who speaks too soon? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

<sup>21</sup> A slave pampered from his youth will become arrogant later on.

<sup>22</sup> An angry man stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered man increases rebellion.

<sup>23</sup> A person's pride will humble him, but a humble spirit will gain honor.

<sup>24</sup> To be a thief's partner is to hate oneself; he hears the curse but will not testify.

<sup>25</sup> The fear of man is a snare, but the one who trusts in the LORD is protected.

<sup>26</sup> Many seek a ruler's favor, but a man receives justice from the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> An unjust man is detestable to the righteous, and one whose way is upright is detestable to the wicked.

**30** <sup>1</sup> The man's oration to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

<sup>2</sup> I am the least intelligent of men, and I lack man's ability to understand.

<sup>3</sup> I have not gained wisdom, and I have no knowledge of the Holy One.

<sup>4</sup> Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in His

hands? Who has bound up the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is the name of His Son--if you know?

<sup>5</sup> Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

<sup>6</sup> Don't add to His words, or He will rebuke you, and you will be proved a liar.

<sup>7</sup> Two things I ask of You; don't deny them to me before I die:

<sup>8</sup> Keep falsehood and deceitful words far from me. Give me neither poverty nor wealth; feed me with the food I need.

<sup>9</sup> Otherwise, I might have too much and deny You, saying, "Who is the LORD?" or I might have nothing and steal, profaning the name of my God.

<sup>10</sup> Don't slander a servant to his master, or he will curse you, and you will become guilty.

<sup>11</sup> There is a generation that curses its father and does not bless its mother.

<sup>12</sup> There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filth.

<sup>13</sup> There is a generation--how haughty its eyes and pretentious its looks.

<sup>14</sup> There is a generation whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, devouring the oppressed from the land and the needy from among mankind.

<sup>15</sup> The leech has two daughters: Give, Give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough!":

<sup>16</sup> Sheol; a barren womb; earth, which is never satisfied with water; and fire, which never says, "Enough!"

<sup>17</sup> As for the eye that ridicules a father and despises obedience to a mother, may ravens of the valley pluck it out and young vultures eat it.



<sup>18</sup> Three things are beyond me; four I can't understand:

<sup>19</sup> the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship at sea, and the way of a man with a young woman.

<sup>20</sup> This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, "I've done nothing wrong."

<sup>21</sup> The earth trembles under three things; it cannot bear up under four:

<sup>22</sup> a servant when he becomes king, a fool when he is stuffed with food,

<sup>23</sup> an unloved woman when she marries, and a serving girl when she ousts her lady.

<sup>24</sup> Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise:

<sup>25</sup> the ants are not a strong people, yet they store up their food in the summer;

<sup>26</sup> hyraxes are not a mighty people, yet they make their homes in the cliffs;

<sup>27</sup> locusts have no king, yet all of them march in ranks;

<sup>28</sup> a lizard can be caught in your hands, yet it lives in kings' palaces.

<sup>29</sup> Three things are stately in their stride, even four are stately in their walk:

<sup>30</sup> a lion, which is mightiest among beasts and doesn't retreat before anything,

<sup>31</sup> a strutting rooster, a goat, and a king at the head of his army.

<sup>32</sup> If you have been foolish by exalting yourself, or if you've been scheming, put your hand over your mouth.

<sup>33</sup> For the churning of milk produces butter, and twisting a nose draws blood, and stirring up anger produces strife.

**31** <sup>1</sup> The words of King Lemuel, an oracle that his mother taught him:

<sup>2</sup> What should I say , my son? What, son of my womb? What, son of my vows?

<sup>3</sup> Don't spend your energy on women or your efforts on those who destroy kings.

<sup>4</sup> It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to desire beer.

<sup>5</sup> Otherwise, they will drink, forget what is decreed, and pervert justice for all the oppressed.

<sup>6</sup> Give beer to one who is dying, and wine to one whose life is bitter.

<sup>7</sup> Let him drink so that he can forget his poverty and remember his trouble no more.

<sup>8</sup> Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed.

<sup>9</sup> Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy.

<sup>10</sup> Who can find a capable wife? She is far more precious than jewels.

<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will not lack anything good.

<sup>12</sup> She rewards him with good, not evil, all the days of her life.

<sup>13</sup> She selects wool and flax and works with willing hands.

<sup>14</sup> She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from far away.

<sup>15</sup> She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and portions for her servants.

<sup>16</sup> She evaluates a field and buys it; she plants a vineyard with her earnings.

<sup>17</sup> She draws on her strength and reveals that her arms are strong.

<sup>18</sup> She sees that her profits are good, and her lamp never goes out at night.

<sup>19</sup> She extends her hands to the spinning staff, and her hands hold the spindle.

<sup>20</sup> Her hands reach out to the poor, and she extends her hands to the needy.

<sup>21</sup> She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all in her household are doubly clothed.

<sup>22</sup> She makes her own bed coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known at the city gates, where he sits among the elders of the land.

<sup>24</sup> She makes and sells linen garments; she delivers belts to the merchants.

<sup>25</sup> Strength and honor are her clothing, and she can laugh at the time to come.

<sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom, and loving instruction is on her tongue.

<sup>27</sup> She watches over the activities of her household and is never idle.

<sup>28</sup> Her sons rise up and call her blessed. Her husband also praises her:

<sup>29</sup> "Many women are capable, but you surpass them all!"

<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD will be praised.

<sup>31</sup> Give her the reward of her labor, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

# Ecclesiastes

**1** <sup>1</sup> The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> "Absolute futility," says the Teacher. "Absolute futility. Everything is futile."

<sup>3</sup> What does a man gain for all his efforts he labors at 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 sets; panting, it returns to its place where it rises.

<sup>6</sup> Gusting to the south, turning to the north, turning, turning, goes the wind, and the wind returns in its cycles.

<sup>7</sup> All the streams flow to the sea, yet the sea is never full. The streams are flowing to the place, and they flow there again.

<sup>8</sup> All things are wearisome; man is unable to speak. The eye is not satisfied by seeing or 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; there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>10</sup> Can one say about anything, "Look, this is new"? It has already existed in the ages before us.

<sup>11</sup> There is no memory of those who came before; and of those who will come after there will also be no memory among those who follow them .

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and explore through wisdom all that is done under heaven. God has given people this miserable task to keep them occupied.

<sup>14</sup> I have seen all the things that are done under the sun and have found



everything to be futile, a pursuit of the wind.

<sup>15</sup> What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.

<sup>16</sup> I said to myself, "Look, I have amassed wisdom far beyond all those who were over Jerusalem before me, and my mind has thoroughly grasped wisdom and knowledge."

<sup>17</sup> I applied my mind to know wisdom and knowledge, madness and folly; I learned that this too is a pursuit of the wind.

<sup>18</sup> For with much wisdom is much sorrow; as knowledge increases, grief increases.

**2** <sup>1</sup> I said to myself, "Go ahead, I will test you with pleasure and enjoy what is good." But it turned out to be futile.

<sup>2</sup> I said about laughter, "It is madness," and about pleasure, "What does this accomplish?"

<sup>3</sup> I explored with my mind how to let my body enjoy life with wine and how to grasp folly--my mind still guiding me with wisdom--until I could see what is good for people to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

<sup>4</sup> I increased my achievements. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.

<sup>5</sup> I made gardens and parks for myself and planted every kind of fruit tree in them.

<sup>6</sup> I constructed reservoirs of water for myself from which to irrigate a grove of flourishing trees.

<sup>7</sup> I acquired male and female servants and had slaves who were born in my house. I also owned many herds of cattle and flocks, more than all who were before me in Jerusalem.

<sup>8</sup> I also amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I gathered male and female singers for myself, and many concubines, the delights of men.

<sup>9</sup> Thus, I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; my wisdom also remained with me.

<sup>10</sup> All that my eyes desired, I did not deny them. I did not refuse myself any pleasure, for I took pleasure in all my struggles. This was my reward for all my struggles.

<sup>11</sup> When I considered all that I had accomplished and what I had labored to achieve, I found everything to be futile and a pursuit of the wind. There was nothing to be gained under the sun.

<sup>12</sup> Then I turned to consider wisdom, madness, and folly, for what will the man be like who comes after the king? He will do what has already been done.

<sup>13</sup> And I realized that there is an advantage to wisdom over folly, like the advantage of light over darkness.

<sup>14</sup> The wise man has eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. Yet I also knew that one fate comes to them both.

<sup>15</sup> So I said to myself, "What happens to the fool will also happen to me. Why then have I been overly wise?" And I said to myself that this is also futile.

<sup>16</sup> For, just like the fool, there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man, since in the days to come both will be forgotten. How is it that the wise man dies just like the fool?

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me. For everything is futile and a pursuit of the wind.

<sup>18</sup> I hated all my work at which I labored under the sun because I must leave it to the man who comes after me.

<sup>19</sup> And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will take over all my work that I labored at skillfully under the sun. This too is futile.

<sup>20</sup> So I began to give myself over to despair concerning all my work I had labored at under the sun.

<sup>21</sup> For there is a man whose work was done with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, but he must give his portion to a man who has not worked for it. This too is futile and a great wrong.

<sup>22</sup> For what does a man get with all his work and all his efforts that he labors with under the sun?

<sup>23</sup> For all his days are filled with grief, and his occupation is sorrowful; even at night, his mind does not rest. This too is futile.

<sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for man than to eat, drink, and to enjoy his work. I

have seen that even this is from God's hand.

<sup>25</sup> For who can eat and who can enjoy life apart from Him?

<sup>26</sup> For to the man who is pleasing in His sight, He gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and accumulating in order to give to the one who is pleasing in God's sight. This too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.

**3** <sup>1</sup> There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven:

<sup>2</sup> a time to give birth and a time to die;  
a time to plant and a time to uproot;

<sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build;

<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 throw stones and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace and a time to avoid embracing;

<sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to count as lost; a time to keep and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to be silent 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 does the worker gain from his struggles?

<sup>10</sup> I have seen the task that God has given people to keep them occupied.

<sup>11</sup> He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but man cannot discover the work God has done from beginning to end.

<sup>12</sup> I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and enjoy the good life.

<sup>13</sup> It is also the gift of God whenever anyone eats, drinks, and enjoys all his efforts.

<sup>14</sup> I know that all God does will last forever; there is no adding to it or taking from it. God works so that people will be in awe of Him.

<sup>15</sup> Whatever is, has already been, and whatever will be, already is. God repeats what has passed.

<sup>16</sup> I also observed under the sun: there is wickedness at the place of judgment and there is wickedness at the place of righteousness.

<sup>17</sup> I said to myself, "God will judge the righteous and the wicked, since there is a time for every activity and every work."

<sup>18</sup> I said to myself, "This happens concerning people, so that God may test them and they may see for themselves that they are like animals."



<sup>19</sup> For the fate of people and the fate of animals is the same. As one dies, so dies the other; they all have the same breath. People have no advantage over animals, for everything is futile.

<sup>20</sup> All are going to the same place; all come from dust, and all return to dust.

<sup>21</sup> Who knows if the spirit of people rises upward and the spirit of animals goes downward to the earth?

<sup>22</sup> I have seen that there is nothing better than for a person to enjoy his activities, because that is his reward. For who can enable him to see what will happen after he dies?

**4**<sup>1</sup> Again, I observed all the acts of oppression being done under the sun. Look at the tears of those who are oppressed; they have no one to comfort them. Power is with those who oppress them; they have no one to comfort them.

<sup>2</sup> So I admired the dead, who have already died, more than the living, who are still alive.

<sup>3</sup> But better than either of them is the one who has not yet existed, who has not seen the evil activity that is done under the sun.

<sup>4</sup> I saw that all labor and all skillful work is due to a man's jealousy of his friend. This too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.

<sup>5</sup> The fool folds his arms and consumes his own flesh.

<sup>6</sup> Better one handful with rest, than two handfuls with effort and pursuit of the wind.

<sup>7</sup> Again, I saw futility under the sun:

<sup>8</sup> There is a person without a companion, without even a son or brother, and though there is no end to all his struggles, his eyes are still not content with riches. "So who am I

struggling for," he asks, "and depriving myself from good?" This too is futile and a miserable task.

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts.

<sup>10</sup> For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up.

<sup>11</sup> Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm?

<sup>12</sup> And if somebody overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

<sup>13</sup> Better is a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer pays attention to warnings.

<sup>14</sup> For he came from prison to be king, even though he was born poor in his kingdom.

<sup>15</sup> I saw all the living who move about under the sun follow a second youth who succeeds him.

<sup>16</sup> There is no limit to all the people who were before them, yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. This too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Guard your step when you go to the house of God. Better to draw near in obedience than to offer the sacrifice as fools do, for they are ignorant and do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> Do not be hasty to speak, and do not be impulsive to make a speech before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

<sup>3</sup> For dreams result from much work and a fool's voice from many words.

<sup>4</sup> When you make a vow to God, don't delay fulfilling it, because He does not delight in fools. Fulfill what you vow.

<sup>5</sup> Better that you do not vow than that you vow and not fulfill it.

<sup>6</sup> Do not let your mouth bring guilt on you, and do not say in the presence of the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry with your words and destroy the work of your hands?

<sup>7</sup> For many dreams bring futility, also many words. So, fear God.

<sup>8</sup> If you see oppression of the poor and perversion of justice and righteousness in the province, don't be astonished at the situation, because one official protects another official, and higher officials protect them.

<sup>9</sup> The profit from the land is taken by all; the king is served by the field.

<sup>10</sup> The one who loves money is never satisfied with money, and whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with income. This too is futile.

<sup>11</sup> When good things increase, the ones who consume them multiply; what, then, is the profit to the owner, except to gaze at them with his eyes?

<sup>12</sup> The sleep of the worker is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich permits him no sleep.

<sup>13</sup> There is a sickening tragedy I have seen under the sun: wealth kept by its owner to his harm.

<sup>14</sup> That wealth was lost in a bad venture, so when he fathered a son, he was empty-handed.

<sup>15</sup> As he came from his mother's womb, so he will go again, naked as he came; he will take nothing for his efforts that he can carry in his hands.

<sup>16</sup> This too is a sickening tragedy: exactly as he comes, so he will go. What does he gain who struggles for the wind?

<sup>17</sup> What is more, he eats in darkness all his days, with much sorrow, sickness, and anger.

<sup>18</sup> Here is what I have seen to be good: it is appropriate to eat, drink, and experience good in all the labor one does under the sun during the few days of his life God has given him, because that is his reward.

<sup>19</sup> God has also given riches and wealth to every man, and He has allowed him to enjoy them, take his reward, and rejoice in his labor. This is a gift of God,

<sup>20</sup> for he does not often consider the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with the joy of his heart.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Here is a tragedy I have observed under the sun, and it weighs heavily on humanity:

<sup>2</sup> God gives a man riches, wealth, and honor so that he lacks nothing of all he desires for himself, but God does

not allow him to enjoy them. Instead, a stranger will enjoy them. This is futile and a sickening tragedy.

<sup>3</sup> A man may father a hundred children and live many years. No matter how long he lives, if he is not satisfied by good things and does not even have a proper burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he.

<sup>4</sup> For he comes in futility and he goes in darkness, and his name is shrouded in darkness.

<sup>5</sup> Though a stillborn child does not see the sun and is not conscious, it has more rest than he.

<sup>6</sup> And if he lives a thousand years twice, but does not experience happiness, do not both go to the same place?

<sup>7</sup> All man's labor is for his stomach, yet the appetite is never satisfied.

<sup>8</sup> What advantage then does the wise man have over the fool? What advantage



is there for the poor person who knows how to conduct himself before others?

<sup>9</sup> Better what the eyes see than wandering desire. This too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.

<sup>10</sup> Whatever exists was given its name long ago, and who man is, is known. But he is not able to contend with the One stronger than he.

<sup>11</sup> For when there are many words, they increase futility. What is the advantage for man?

<sup>12</sup> For who knows what is good for man in life, in the few days of his futile life that he spends like a shadow? Who can tell man what will happen after him under the sun?

**7** <sup>1</sup> A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of one's death than the day of one's birth.

<sup>2</sup> It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of

feasting, since that is the end of all mankind, and the living should take it to heart.

<sup>3</sup> Grief is better than laughter, for when a face is sad, a heart may be glad.

<sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise is in a house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in a house of pleasure.

<sup>5</sup> It is better to listen to rebuke from a wise person than to listen to the song of fools.

<sup>6</sup> For like the crackling of burning thorns under the pot, so is the laughter of the fool. This too is futile.

<sup>7</sup> Surely, the practice of extortion turns a wise person into a fool, and a bribe destroys the mind.

<sup>8</sup> The end of a matter is better than its beginning; a patient spirit is better than a proud spirit.

<sup>9</sup> Don't let your spirit rush to be angry, for anger abides in the heart of fools.

<sup>10</sup> Don't say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not wise of you to ask this.

<sup>11</sup> Wisdom is as good as an inheritance, and an advantage to those who see the sun.

<sup>12</sup> For wisdom is protection as money is protection, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of its owner.

<sup>13</sup> Consider the work of God; for who can straighten out what He has made crooked?

<sup>14</sup> In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity, consider: without question, God has made the one as well as the other, so that man cannot discover anything that will come after him.

<sup>15</sup> In my futile life I have seen everything: there is a righteous man who perishes in spite of his righteousness,

and there is a wicked man who lives long in spite of his evil.

<sup>16</sup> Don't be excessively righteous, and don't be overly wise. Why should you destroy yourself?

<sup>17</sup> Don't be excessively wicked, and don't be foolish. Why should you die before your time?

<sup>18</sup> It is good that you grasp the one and do not let the other slip from your hand. For the one who fears God will end up with both of them.

<sup>19</sup> Wisdom makes the wise man stronger than ten rulers of a city.

<sup>20</sup> There is certainly no righteous man on the earth who does good and never sins.

<sup>21</sup> Don't pay attention to everything people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you;

<sup>22</sup> for you know that many times you yourself have cursed others.

<sup>23</sup> I have tested all this by wisdom. I resolved, "I will be wise," but it was beyond me.

<sup>24</sup> What exists is beyond reach and very deep. Who can discover it?

<sup>25</sup> I turned my thoughts to know, explore, and seek wisdom and an explanation for things , and to know that wickedness is stupidity and folly is madness.

<sup>26</sup> And I find more bitter than death the woman who is a trap, her heart a net, and her hands chains. The one who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner will be captured by her.

<sup>27</sup> "Look," says the Teacher, "this I have discovered, by adding one thing to another to find out the explanation,

<sup>28</sup> which my soul continually searches for but does not find: among a thousand people I have found one true man, but

among all these I have not found a true woman.

<sup>29</sup> Only see this: I have discovered that God made people upright, but they pursued many schemes."

**8** <sup>1</sup> Who is like the wise person, and who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom brightens his face, and the sternness of his face is changed.

<sup>2</sup> Keep the king's command. Concerning an oath by God,

<sup>3</sup> do not be in a hurry. Leave his presence, and don't persist in a bad cause, since he will do whatever he wants.

<sup>4</sup> For the king's word is authoritative, and who can say to him, "What are you doing?"

<sup>5</sup> The one who keeps a command will not experience anything harmful, and

a wise heart knows the right time and procedure.

<sup>6</sup> For every activity there is a right time and procedure, even though man's troubles are heavy on him.

<sup>7</sup> Yet no one knows what will happen, because who can tell him what will happen?

<sup>8</sup> No one has authority over the wind to restrain it, and there is no authority over the day of death; there is no furlough in battle, and wickedness will not allow those who practice it to escape.

<sup>9</sup> All this I have seen, applying my mind to all the work that is done under the sun, at a time when one man has authority over another to his harm.

<sup>10</sup> In such circumstances, I saw the wicked buried. They came and went from the holy place, and they were praised in the city where they did so. This too is futile.

<sup>11</sup> Because the sentence against a criminal act is not carried out quickly, therefore the heart of people is filled with the desire to commit crime.

<sup>12</sup> Although a sinner commits crime a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I also know that it will go well with God-fearing people, for they are reverent before Him.

<sup>13</sup> However, it will not go well with the wicked, and they will not lengthen their days like a shadow, for they are not reverent before God.

<sup>14</sup> There is a futility that is done on the earth: there are righteous people who get what the actions of the wicked deserve, and there are wicked people who get what the actions of the righteous deserve. I say that this too is futile.

<sup>15</sup> So I commended enjoyment, because there is nothing better for man under



the sun except to eat, drink, and enjoy himself, for this will accompany him in his labor during the years of his days that God gives him under the sun.

<sup>16</sup> When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe the activity that is done on the earth (even though one's eyes do not close in sleep day or night),

<sup>17</sup> I observed all the work of God and concluded that man is unable to discover the work that is done under the sun. Even though a man labors hard to explore it, he cannot find it; even if the wise man claims to know it, he is unable to discover it.

**9**<sup>1</sup> Indeed, I took all this to heart and explained it all: the righteous, the wise, and their works are in God's hands. People don't know whether to expect love or hate. Everything lies ahead of them.

<sup>2</sup> Everything is the same for everyone: there is one fate for the righteous and the wicked, for the good and the bad, for the clean and the unclean, for the one who sacrifices and the one who does not sacrifice. As it is for the good, so it is for the sinner, as for the one who takes an oath, so for the one who fears an oath.

<sup>3</sup> This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: there is one fate for everyone. In addition, the hearts of people are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live--after that they go to the dead.

<sup>4</sup> But there is hope for whoever is joined with all the living, since a live dog is better than a dead lion.

<sup>5</sup> For the living know that they will die, but the dead don't know anything. There is no longer a reward for them because the memory of them is forgotten.

<sup>6</sup> Their love, their hate, and their envy have already disappeared, and there is no longer a portion for them in all that is done under the sun.

<sup>7</sup> Go, eat your bread with pleasure, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart, for God has already accepted your works.

<sup>8</sup> Let your clothes be white all the time, and never let oil be lacking on your head.

<sup>9</sup> Enjoy life with the wife you love all the days of your fleeting life, which has been given to you under the sun, all your fleeting days. For that is your portion in life and in your struggle under the sun.

<sup>10</sup> Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

<sup>11</sup> Again I saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, or the battle to the strong, or bread to the wise, or riches to the discerning, or favor to the

skillful; rather, time and chance happen to all of them.

<sup>12</sup> For man certainly does not know his time: like fish caught in a cruel net, or like birds caught in a trap, so people are trapped in an evil time, as it suddenly falls on them.

<sup>13</sup> I have observed that this also is wisdom under the sun, and it is significant to me:

<sup>14</sup> There was a small city with few men in it. A great king came against it, surrounded it, and built large siege works against it.

<sup>15</sup> Now a poor wise man was found in the city, and he delivered the city by his wisdom. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

<sup>16</sup> And I said, "Wisdom is better than strength, but the wisdom of the poor man is despised, and his words are not heeded."

<sup>17</sup> The calm words of the wise are heeded more than the shouts of a ruler over fools.

<sup>18</sup> Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much good.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Dead flies make a perfumer's oil ferment and stink; so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

<sup>2</sup> A wise man's heart goes to the right, but a fool's heart to the left.

<sup>3</sup> Even when the fool walks along the road, his heart lacks sense, and he shows everyone he is a fool.

<sup>4</sup> If the ruler's anger rises against you, don't leave your place, for calmness puts great offenses to rest.

<sup>5</sup> There is an evil I have seen under the sun, an error proceeding from the presence of the ruler:

<sup>6</sup> The fool is appointed to great heights, but the rich remain in lowly positions.

<sup>7</sup> I have seen slaves on horses, but princes walking on the ground like slaves.

<sup>8</sup> The one who digs a pit may fall into it, and the one who breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.

<sup>9</sup> The one who quarries stones may be hurt by them; the one who splits trees may be endangered by them.

<sup>10</sup> If the axe is dull, and one does not sharpen its edge, then one must exert more strength; however, the advantage of wisdom is that it brings success.

<sup>11</sup> If the snake bites before it is charmed, then there is no advantage for the charmer.

<sup>12</sup> The words from the mouth of a wise man are gracious, but the lips of a fool consume him.

<sup>13</sup> The beginning of the words of his mouth is folly, but the end of his speaking is evil madness.

<sup>14</sup> Yet the fool multiplies words. No one knows what will happen, and who can tell anyone what will happen after him?

<sup>15</sup> The struggles of fools weary them, for they don't know how to go to the city.

<sup>16</sup> Woe to you, land, when your king is a household servant, and your princes feast in the morning.

<sup>17</sup> Blessed are you, land, when your king is a son of nobles and your princes feast at the proper time--for strength and not for drunkenness.

<sup>18</sup> Because of laziness the roof caves in, and because of negligent hands the house leaks.

<sup>19</sup> A feast is prepared for laughter, and wine makes life happy, and money is the answer for everything.

<sup>20</sup> Do not curse the king even in your thoughts, and do not curse a rich person even in your bedroom, for a bird of

the sky may carry the message, and a winged creature may report the matter.

**11** <sup>1</sup> Send your bread on the surface of the waters, for after many days you may find it.

<sup>2</sup> Give a portion to seven or even to eight, for you don't know what disaster may happen on earth.

<sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full, they will pour out rain on the earth; whether a tree falls to the south or the north, the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

<sup>4</sup> One who watches the wind will not sow, and the one who looks at the clouds will not reap.

<sup>5</sup> Just as you don't know the path of the wind, or how bones develop in the womb of a pregnant woman, so you don't know the work of God who makes everything.

<sup>6</sup> In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hand rest,



because you don't know which will succeed, whether one or the other, or if both of them will be equally good.

<sup>7</sup> Light is sweet, and it is pleasing for the eyes to see the sun.

<sup>8</sup> For if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all, and let him remember the days of darkness, since they will be many. All that comes is futile.

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth. And walk in the ways of your heart and in the sights of your eyes; but know that for all of these things God will bring you to judgment.

<sup>10</sup> Remove sorrow from your heart, and put away pain from your flesh, because youth and the prime of life are fleeting.

**12** <sup>1</sup> So remember your Creator in the days of your youth: Before the days of adversity come, and the

years approach when you will say, "I have no delight in them";

<sup>2</sup> before the sun and the light are darkened, and the moon and the stars, and the clouds return after the rain;

<sup>3</sup> on the day when the guardians of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, the women who grind cease because they are few, and the ones who watch through the windows see dimly,

<sup>4</sup> and the doors at the street are shut while the sound of the mill fades; when one rises at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song grow faint.

<sup>5</sup> Also, they are afraid of heights and dangers on the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper loses its spring, and the caper berry has no effect; for man is headed to his eternal home, and mourners will walk around in the street;

<sup>6</sup> before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the jar is shattered at the spring, and the wheel is broken into the well;

<sup>7</sup> and the dust returns to the earth as it once was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

<sup>8</sup> "Absolute futility," says the Teacher. "Everything is futile."

<sup>9</sup> In addition to the Teacher being a wise man, he constantly taught the people knowledge; he weighed, explored, and arranged many proverbs.

<sup>10</sup> The Teacher sought to find delightful sayings and to accurately write words of truth.

<sup>11</sup> The sayings of the wise are like goads, and those from masters of collections are like firmly embedded nails. The sayings are given by one Shepherd.

<sup>12</sup> But beyond these, my son, be warned: there is no end to the making

of many books, and much study wearies the body.

<sup>13</sup> When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is: fear God and keep His commands, because this is for all humanity.

<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil.

# Song of Solomon

**1** <sup>1</sup> Solomon's Finest Song

<sup>2</sup> Oh, that he would kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is more delightful than wine.

<sup>3</sup> The fragrance of your perfume is intoxicating; your name is perfume poured out. No wonder young women adore you.

<sup>4</sup> Take me with you--let us hurry. Oh, that the king would bring me to his chambers. We will rejoice and be glad for you; we will praise your love more than wine. It is only right that they adore you.

<sup>5</sup> Daughters of Jerusalem, I am dark like the tents of Kedar, yet lovely like the curtains of Solomon.

<sup>6</sup> Do not stare at me because I am dark, for the sun has gazed on me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me a keeper of the vineyards. I have not kept my own vineyard.

<sup>7</sup> Tell me, you, the one I love: Where do you pasture your sheep? Where do you let them rest at noon? Why should I be like one who veils herself beside the flocks of your companions?

<sup>8</sup> If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the flock, and pasture your young goats near the shepherds' tents.

<sup>9</sup> I compare you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.

<sup>10</sup> Your cheeks are beautiful with jewelry, your neck with its necklace.

<sup>11</sup> We will make gold jewelry for you, accented with silver.

<sup>12</sup> While the king is on his couch, my perfume releases its fragrance.

<sup>13</sup> My love is a sachet of myrrh to me,  
spending the night between my breasts.

<sup>14</sup> My love is a cluster of henna  
blossoms to me, in the vineyards of  
En-gedi.

<sup>15</sup> How beautiful you are, my darling.  
How very beautiful! Your eyes are doves.

<sup>16</sup> How handsome you are, my love.  
How delightful! Our bed is lush with  
foliage;

<sup>17</sup> the beams of our house are cedars,  
and our rafters are cypresses.

**2** <sup>1</sup> I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the  
valleys.

<sup>2</sup> Like a lily among thorns, so is my  
darling among the young women.

<sup>3</sup> Like an apricot tree among the trees  
of the forest, so is my love among the  
young men. I delight to sit in his shade,  
and his fruit is sweet to my taste.

<sup>4</sup> He brought me to the banquet hall,  
and he looked on me with love.

<sup>5</sup> Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apricots, for I am lovesick.

<sup>6</sup> His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me.

<sup>7</sup> Young women of Jerusalem, I charge you, by the gazelles and the wild does of the field: do not stir up or awaken love until the appropriate time.

<sup>8</sup> Listen! My love is approaching . Look! Here he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.

<sup>9</sup> My love is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, he is standing behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.

<sup>10</sup> My love calls to me: Arise, my darling. Come away, my beautiful one.

<sup>11</sup> For now the winter is past; the rain has ended and gone away.

<sup>12</sup> The blossoms appear in the countryside. The time of singing has



come, and the turtledove's cooing is heard in our land.

<sup>13</sup> The fig tree ripens its figs; the blossoming vines give off their fragrance. Arise, my darling. Come away, my beautiful one.

<sup>14</sup> My dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crevices 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 ruin the vineyards--for our vineyards are in bloom.

<sup>16</sup> My love is mine and I am his; he feeds among the lilies.

<sup>17</sup> Before the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn to me , my love, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the divided mountains.

**3** <sup>1</sup> In my bed at night I sought the one I love; I sought him, but did not find him.

<sup>2</sup> I will arise now and go about the city, through the streets and the plazas. I will seek the one I love. I sought him, but did not find him.

<sup>3</sup> The guards who go about the city found me. "Have you seen the one I love?" I asked them .

<sup>4</sup> I had just passed them when I found the one I love. I held on to him and would not let him go until I brought him to my mother's house--to the chamber of the one who conceived me.

<sup>5</sup> Young women of Jerusalem, I charge you, by the gazelles and the wild does of the field: do not stir up or awaken love until the appropriate time.

<sup>6</sup> What is this coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, scented with myrrh and frankincense from every fragrant powder of the merchant?

<sup>7</sup> It is Solomon's royal litter surrounded by 60 warriors from the mighty of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> All of them are skilled with swords and trained in warfare. Each has his sword at his side to guard against the terror of the night.

<sup>9</sup> King Solomon made a sedan chair for himself with wood from Lebanon.

<sup>10</sup> He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, and its seat of purple. Its interior is inlaid with love by the young women of Jerusalem.

<sup>11</sup> Come out, young women of Zion, and gaze at King Solomon, wearing the crown his mother placed on him the day of his wedding--the day of his heart's rejoicing.

**4** <sup>1</sup> How beautiful you are, my darling.  
How very beautiful! Behind your veil, your eyes are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats streaming down Mount Gilead.

<sup>2</sup> Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn sheep coming up from washing, each one having a twin, and not one missing.

<sup>3</sup> Your lips are like a scarlet cord, and your mouth is lovely. Behind your veil, your brow is like a slice of pomegranate.

<sup>4</sup> Your neck is like the tower of David, constructed in layers. A thousand bucklers are hung on it--all of them shields of warriors.

<sup>5</sup> Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that feed among the lilies.

<sup>6</sup> Before the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will make my way to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense.

<sup>7</sup> You are absolutely beautiful, my darling, with no imperfection in you.

<sup>8</sup> Come with me from Lebanon, my bride--with me from Lebanon! Descend from the peak of Amana, from the

summit of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of the lions, from the mountains of the leopards.

<sup>9</sup> You have captured my heart, my sister, my bride. You have captured my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.

<sup>10</sup> How delightful your love is, my sister, my bride. Your love is much better than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any balsam.

<sup>11</sup> Your lips drip sweetness like the honeycomb, my bride. Honey and milk are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

<sup>12</sup> My sister, my bride, you are a locked garden--a locked garden and a sealed spring.

<sup>13</sup> Your branches are a paradise of pomegranates with choicest fruits, henna with nard--

<sup>14</sup> nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all the trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all the best spices.

<sup>15</sup> You are a garden spring, a well of flowing water streaming from Lebanon.

<sup>16</sup> Awaken, north wind--come, south wind. Blow on my garden, and spread the fragrance of its spices. Let my love come to his garden and eat its choicest fruits.

**5** <sup>1</sup> I have come to my garden--my sister, my bride. I gather my myrrh with my spices. I eat my honeycomb with my honey. I drink my wine with my milk. Eat, friends! Drink, be intoxicated with love!

<sup>2</sup> I sleep, but my heart is awake. A sound! My love is knocking! Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my perfect one. For my head is drenched

with dew, my hair with droplets of the night.

<sup>3</sup> I have taken off my clothing. How can I put it back on? I have washed my feet. How can I get them dirty?

<sup>4</sup> My love thrust his hand through the opening, and my feelings were stirred for him.

<sup>5</sup> I rose to open for my love. My hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh on the handles of the bolt.

<sup>6</sup> I opened to my love, but my love had turned and gone away. I was crushed that he had left. I sought him, but did not find him. I called him, but he did not answer.

<sup>7</sup> The guards who go about the city found me. They beat and wounded me; they took my cloak from me--the guardians of the walls.

<sup>8</sup> Young women of Jerusalem, I charge you: if you find my love, tell him that I am lovesick.

<sup>9</sup> What makes the one you love better than another, most beautiful of women? What makes him better than another, that you would give us this charge?

<sup>10</sup> My love is fit and strong, notable among ten thousand.

<sup>11</sup> His head is purest gold. His hair is wavy and black as a raven.

<sup>12</sup> His eyes are like doves beside streams of water, washed in milk and set like jewels.

<sup>13</sup> His cheeks are like beds of spice, towers of perfume. His lips are lilies, dripping with flowing myrrh.

<sup>14</sup> His arms are rods of gold set with topaz. His body is an ivory panel covered with sapphires.



<sup>15</sup> His legs are alabaster pillars set on pedestals of pure gold. His presence is like Lebanon, as majestic as the cedars.

<sup>16</sup> His mouth is sweetness. He is absolutely desirable. This is my love, and this is my friend, young women of Jerusalem.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Where has your love gone, most beautiful of women? Which way has he turned? We will seek him with you.

<sup>2</sup> My love has gone down to his garden, to beds of spice, to feed in the gardens and gather lilies.

<sup>3</sup> I am my love's and my love is mine; he feeds among the lilies.

<sup>4</sup> You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, lovely as Jerusalem, awe-inspiring as an army with banners.

<sup>5</sup> Turn your eyes away from me, for they captivate me. Your hair is like a flock of goats streaming down from Gilead.

<sup>6</sup> Your teeth are like a flock of ewes coming up from washing, each one having a twin, and not one missing.

<sup>7</sup> Behind your veil, your brow is like a slice of pomegranate.

<sup>8</sup> There are 60 queens and 80 concubines and young women without number.

<sup>9</sup> But my dove, my virtuous one, is unique; she is the favorite of her mother, perfect to the one who gave her birth. Women see her and declare her fortunate; queens and concubines also, and they sing her praises:

<sup>10</sup> Who is this who shines like the dawn--as beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awe-inspiring as an army with banners?

<sup>11</sup> I came down to the walnut grove to see the blossoms of the valley, to see if the vines were budding and the pomegranates blooming.

<sup>12</sup> Before I knew it, my desire put me among the chariots of my noble people.

<sup>13</sup> Come back, come back, Shulammite! Come back, come back, that we may look at you! Why are you looking at the Shulammite, as you look at the dance of the two camps?

**7** <sup>1</sup> How beautiful are your sandaled feet, princess! The curves of your thighs are like jewelry, the handiwork of a master.

<sup>2</sup> Your navel is a rounded bowl; it never lacks mixed wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat surrounded by lilies.

<sup>3</sup> Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.

<sup>4</sup> Your neck is like a tower of ivory, your eyes like pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus.

<sup>5</sup> Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel, the hair of your head like purple

cloth--a king could be held captive in your tresses.

<sup>6</sup> How beautiful you are and how pleasant, my love, with such delights!

<sup>7</sup> Your stature is like a palm tree; your breasts are clusters of fruit .

<sup>8</sup> I said, "I will climb the palm tree and take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like clusters of grapes, and the fragrance of your breath like apricots.

<sup>9</sup> Your mouth is like fine wine--flowing smoothly for my love gliding past my lips and teeth!

<sup>10</sup> I belong to my love, and his desire is for me.

<sup>11</sup> Come, my love, let's go to the field; let's spend the night among the henna blossoms.

<sup>12</sup> Let's go early to the vineyards; let's see if the vine has budded, if the blossom has opened, if the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love.

<sup>13</sup> The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our doors is every delicacy--new as well as old. I have treasured them up for you, my love.

**8** <sup>1</sup> If only I could treat you like my brother, one who nursed at my mother's breasts, I would find you in public and kiss you, and no one would scorn me.

<sup>2</sup> I would lead you, I would take you, to the house of my mother who taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink from my pomegranate juice.

<sup>3</sup> His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me.

<sup>4</sup> Young women of Jerusalem, I charge you: do not stir up or awaken love until the appropriate time.

<sup>5</sup> Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning on the one she loves? I awakened you under the apricot

tree. There your mother conceived you; there she conceived and gave you birth.

<sup>6</sup> Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death; ardent love is as unrelenting as Sheol. Love's flames are fiery flames--the fiercest of all.

<sup>7</sup> Mighty waters cannot extinguish love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If a man were to give all his wealth for love, it would be utterly scorned.

<sup>8</sup> Our sister is young; she has no breasts. What will we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for?

<sup>9</sup> If she is a wall, we will build a silver parapet on it. If she is a door, we will enclose it with cedar planks.

<sup>10</sup> I am a wall and my breasts like towers. So in his eyes I have become like one who finds peace.

<sup>11</sup> Solomon owned a vineyard in Baal-hamon. He leased the vineyard to

tenants. Each was to bring for his fruit 1,000 pieces of silver.

<sup>12</sup> I have my own vineyard. The 1,000 are for you, Solomon, but 200 for those who guard its fruits.

<sup>13</sup> You who dwell in the gardens--companions are listening for your voice--let me hear you!

<sup>14</sup> Hurry to me , my love, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

# Isaiah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> Listen, heavens, and pay attention, earth, for the LORD has spoken: "I have raised children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against Me.

<sup>3</sup> The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding-trough, but Israel does not know; My people do not understand."

<sup>4</sup> Oh--sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, brood of evildoers, depraved children! They have abandoned the LORD; they have despised the Holy One of Israel; they have turned their backs on Him .



<sup>5</sup> Why do you want more beatings? Why do you keep on rebelling? The whole head is hurt, and the whole heart is sick.

<sup>6</sup> From the sole of the foot even to the head, no spot is uninjured--wounds, welts, and festering sores not cleansed, bandaged, or soothed with oil.

<sup>7</sup> Your land is desolate, your cities burned with fire; before your very eyes foreigners devour your fields--a desolation overthrown by foreigners.

<sup>8</sup> Daughter Zion is abandoned like a shelter in a vineyard, like a shack in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.

<sup>9</sup> If the LORD of Hosts had not left us a few survivors, we would be like Sodom, we would resemble Gomorrah.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

<sup>11</sup> "What are all your sacrifices to Me?" asks the LORD. "I have had enough of

burnt offerings and rams and the fat of well-fed cattle; I have no desire for the blood of bulls, lambs, or male goats.

<sup>12</sup> When you come to appear before Me, who requires this from you--this trampling of My courts?

<sup>13</sup> Stop bringing useless offerings. I despise your incense. New Moons and Sabbaths, and the calling of solemn assemblies--I cannot stand iniquity with a festival.

<sup>14</sup> I hate your New Moons and prescribed festivals. They have become a burden to Me; I am tired of putting up with them .

<sup>15</sup> When you lift up your hands in prayer , I will refuse to look at you; even if you offer countless prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.

<sup>16</sup> "Wash yourselves. Cleanse yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from My sight. Stop doing evil.

<sup>17</sup> Learn to do what is good. Seek justice. Correct the oppressor. Defend the rights of the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause.

<sup>18</sup> "Come, let us discuss this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.

<sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land.

<sup>20</sup> But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

<sup>21</sup> The faithful city--what an adulteress she has become! She was once full of justice. Righteousness once dwelt in her--but now, murderers!

<sup>22</sup> Your silver has become dross, your beer is diluted with water.

<sup>23</sup> Your rulers are rebels, friends of thieves. They all love graft and chase

after bribes. They do not defend the rights of the fatherless, and the widow's case never comes before them."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore the Lord GOD of Hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, declares: "Ah, I will gain satisfaction against My foes; I will take revenge against My enemies.

<sup>25</sup> I will turn My hand against you and will burn away your dross completely; I will remove all your impurities.

<sup>26</sup> I will restore your judges to what they once were, and your advisers to their former state. Afterwards you will be called the Righteous City, a Faithful City."

<sup>27</sup> Zion will be redeemed by justice, her repentant ones by righteousness.

<sup>28</sup> But both rebels and sinners will be destroyed, and those who abandon the LORD will perish.

<sup>29</sup> Indeed, they will be ashamed of the sacred trees you desired, and you will

be embarrassed because of the gardens you have chosen.

<sup>30</sup> For you will become like an oak whose leaves are withered, and like a garden without water.

<sup>31</sup> The strong one will become tinder, and his work a spark; both will burn together, with no one to quench the flames .

**2** <sup>1</sup> The vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup> In the last days the mountain of the LORD's house will be established at the top of the mountains and will be raised above the hills. All nations will stream to it,

<sup>3</sup> and many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us about His ways so that we may walk in His paths." For

instruction will go out of Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He will settle disputes among the nations and provide arbitration for many peoples. They will turn their swords into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will not take up the sword against other nations, and they will never again train for war.

<sup>5</sup> House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the LORD's light.

<sup>6</sup> For You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of divination from the East and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines. They are in league with foreigners.

<sup>7</sup> Their land is full of silver and gold, and there is no limit to their treasures; their land is full of horses, and there is no limit to their chariots.

<sup>8</sup> Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made.

<sup>9</sup> So humanity is brought low, and man is humbled. Do not forgive them!

<sup>10</sup> Go into the rocks and hide in the dust from the terror of the LORD and from His majestic splendor.

<sup>11</sup> Human pride will be humbled, and the loftiness of men will be brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted on that day.

<sup>12</sup> For a day belonging to the LORD of Hosts is coming against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up--it will be humbled--

<sup>13</sup> against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up, against all the oaks of Bashan,

<sup>14</sup> against all the high mountains, against all the lofty hills,

<sup>15</sup> against every high tower, against every fortified wall,

<sup>16</sup> against every ship of Tarshish, and against every splendid sea vessel.

<sup>17</sup> So human pride will be brought low, and the loftiness of men will be humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted on that day.

<sup>18</sup> The idols will vanish completely.

<sup>19</sup> People will go into caves in the rocks and holes in the ground, away from the terror of the LORD and from His majestic splendor, when He rises to terrify the earth.

<sup>20</sup> On that day people will throw their silver and gold idols, which they made to worship, to the moles and the bats.

<sup>21</sup> They will go into the caves of the rocks and the crevices in the cliffs, away from the terror of the LORD and from His majestic splendor, when He rises to terrify the earth.



<sup>22</sup> Put no more trust in man, who has only the breath in his nostrils. What is he really worth?

**3** <sup>1</sup> Observe this: The Lord GOD of Hosts is about to remove from Jerusalem and from Judah every kind of security: the entire supply of bread and water,

<sup>2</sup> the hero and warrior, the judge and prophet, the fortune-teller and elder,

<sup>3</sup> the commander of 50 and the dignitary, the counselor, cunning magician, and necromancer.

<sup>4</sup> "I will make youths their leaders, and the unstable will govern them."

<sup>5</sup> The people will oppress one another, man against man, neighbor against neighbor; the youth will act arrogantly toward the elder, and the worthless toward the honorable.

<sup>6</sup> A man will even seize his brother in his father's house, saying: "You have a

cloak--you be our leader! This heap of rubble will be under your control."

<sup>7</sup> On that day he will cry out, saying: "I'm not a healer. I don't even have food or clothing in my house. Don't make me the leader of the people!"

<sup>8</sup> For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen because they have spoken and acted against the LORD, defying His glorious presence.

<sup>9</sup> The look on their faces testifies against them, and like Sodom, they flaunt their sin. They do not conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.

<sup>10</sup> Tell the righteous that it will go well for them , for they will eat the fruit of their deeds.

<sup>11</sup> Woe to the wicked--it will go badly for them , for what they have done will be done to them.

<sup>12</sup> Youths oppress My people, and women rule over them. My people, your leaders mislead you; they confuse the direction of your paths.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD rises to argue the case and stands to judge the people.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD brings this charge against the elders and leaders of His people: "You have devastated the vineyard. The plunder from the poor is in your houses.

<sup>15</sup> Why do you crush My people and grind the faces of the poor?" says the Lord GOD of Hosts.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD also says: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, walking with heads held high and seductive eyes, going along with prancing steps, jingling their ankle bracelets,

<sup>17</sup> the Lord will put scabs on the heads of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will shave their foreheads bare.

<sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord will strip their finery: ankle bracelets, headbands, crescents,

<sup>19</sup> pendants, bracelets, veils,

<sup>20</sup> headdresses, ankle jewelry, sashes, perfume bottles, amulets,

<sup>21</sup> signet rings, nose rings,

<sup>22</sup> festive robes, capes, cloaks, purses,

<sup>23</sup> garments, linen clothes, turbans, and veils.

<sup>24</sup> Instead of perfume there will be a stench; instead of a belt, a rope; instead of beautifully styled hair, baldness; instead of fine clothes, sackcloth; instead of beauty, branding.

<sup>25</sup> Your men will fall by the sword, your warriors in battle.

<sup>26</sup> Then her gates will lament and mourn; deserted, she will sit on the ground.

**4** <sup>1</sup> On that day seven women will seize one man, saying, "We will eat

our own bread and provide our own clothing. Just let us be called by your name. Take away our disgrace."

<sup>2</sup> On that day the branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of Israel's survivors.

<sup>3</sup> Whoever remains in Zion and whoever is left in Jerusalem will be called holy--all in Jerusalem who are destined to live--

<sup>4</sup> when the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodguilt from the heart of Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of burning.

<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD will create a cloud of smoke by day and a glowing flame of fire by night over the entire site of Mount Zion and over its assemblies. For there will be a canopy over all the glory,

<sup>6</sup> and there will be a booth for shade from heat by day, and a refuge and shelter from storm and rain.

**5** <sup>1</sup> I will sing about the one I love, a song about my loved one's vineyard: The one I love had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He broke up the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted it with the finest vines. He built a tower in the middle of it and even hewed out a winepress there. He expected it to yield good grapes, but it yielded worthless grapes.

<sup>3</sup> So now, residents of Jerusalem and men of Judah, please judge between Me and My vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more could I have done for My vineyard than I did? Why, when I expected a yield of good grapes, did it yield worthless grapes?

<sup>5</sup> Now I will tell you what I am about to do to My vineyard: I will remove

its hedge, and it will be consumed; I will tear down its wall, and it will be trampled.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland. It will not be pruned or weeded; thorns and briers will grow up. I will also give orders to the clouds that rain should not fall on it.

<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of Hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah, the plant He delighted in. He looked for justice but saw injustice, for righteousness, but heard cries of wretchedness.

<sup>8</sup> Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field until there is no more room and you alone are left in the land.

<sup>9</sup> In my hearing the LORD of Hosts has taken an oath : Indeed, many houses will become desolate, grand and lovely ones without inhabitants.

<sup>10</sup> For a ten-acre vineyard will yield only six gallons, and 10 bushels of seed will yield only one bushel.

<sup>11</sup> Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine.

<sup>12</sup> At their feasts they have lyre, harp, tambourine, flute, and wine. They do not perceive the LORD's actions, and they do not see the work of His hands.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore My people go into exile because they lack knowledge; the dignitaries are starving, and the masses are parched with thirst.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore Sheol enlarges its throat and opens wide its enormous jaws, and down go Zion's dignitaries, her masses, her crowds, and those who carouse in her!

<sup>15</sup> Humanity is brought low, man is humbled, and haughty eyes are humbled.



<sup>16</sup> But the LORD of Hosts is exalted by His justice, and the holy God is distinguished by righteousness.

<sup>17</sup> Lambs will graze as if in their own pastures, and strangers will eat among the ruins of the rich.

<sup>18</sup> Woe to those who drag wickedness with cords of deceit and pull sin along with cart ropes,

<sup>19</sup> to those who say: "Let Him hurry up and do His work quickly so that we can see it! Let the plan of the Holy One of Israel take place so that we can know it!"

<sup>20</sup> Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

<sup>21</sup> Woe to those who are wise in their own opinion and clever in their own sight.

<sup>22</sup> Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, who are fearless at mixing beer,

<sup>23</sup> who acquit the guilty for a bribe and deprive the innocent of justice.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes straw and as dry grass shrivels in the flame, so their roots will become like something rotten and their blossoms will blow away like dust, for they have rejected the instruction of the LORD of Hosts, and they have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore the LORD's anger burns against His people. He raised His hand against them and struck them; the mountains quaked, and their corpses were like garbage in the streets. In all this, His anger is not removed, and His hand is still raised to strike .

<sup>26</sup> He raises a signal flag for the distant nations and whistles for them from the

ends of the earth. Look--how quickly and swiftly they come!

<sup>27</sup> None of them grows weary or stumbles; no one slumbers or sleeps. No belt is loose, and no sandal strap broken.

<sup>28</sup> Their arrows are sharpened, and all their bows strung. Their horses' hooves are like flint; their chariot wheels are like a whirlwind.

<sup>29</sup> Their roaring is like a lion's; they roar like young lions; they growl and seize their prey and carry it off, and no one can rescue it .

<sup>30</sup> On that day they will roar over it, like the roaring of the sea. When one looks at the land, there will be darkness and distress; light will be obscured by clouds.

**6** <sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and His robe filled the temple.

<sup>2</sup> Seraphim were standing above Him; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

<sup>3</sup> And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; His glory fills the whole earth.

<sup>4</sup> The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> Then I said: Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, and in his hand was a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs.

<sup>7</sup> He touched my mouth with it and said: Now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, and your sin is atoned for.

<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Who should I send? Who will go for Us? I said: Here I am. Send me.

<sup>9</sup> And He replied: Go! Say to these people: Keep listening, but do not understand; keep looking, but do not perceive.

<sup>10</sup> Dull the minds of these people; deafen their ears and blind their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, understand with their minds, turn back, and be healed.

<sup>11</sup> Then I said, "Until when, Lord?" And He replied: Until cities lie in ruins without inhabitants, houses are without people, the land is ruined and desolate,

<sup>12</sup> and the LORD drives the people far away, leaving great emptiness in the land.

<sup>13</sup> Though a tenth will remain in the land, it will be burned again. Like the

terebinth or the oak, which leaves a stump when felled, the holy seed is the stump.

**7** <sup>1</sup> This took place during the reign of Ahaz, son of Jotham, son of Uzziah king of Judah: Rezin king of Aram, along with Pekah, son of Remaliah, king of Israel, waged war against Jerusalem, but he could not succeed.

<sup>2</sup> When it became known to the house of David that Aram had occupied Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the hearts of his people trembled like trees of a forest shaking in a wind.

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out with your son Shear-jashub to meet Ahaz at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, by the road to the Fuller's Field.

<sup>4</sup> Say to him: Calm down and be quiet. Don't be afraid or fainthearted because of these two smoldering stubs

of firebrands, Rezin of Aram, and the son of Remaliah.

<sup>5</sup> For Aram, along with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has plotted harm against you. They say:

<sup>6</sup> Let us go up against Judah, terrorize it, and conquer it for ourselves. Then we can install Tabeel's son as king in it."

<sup>7</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: It will not happen; it will not occur.

<sup>8</sup> The head of Aram is Damascus, the head of Damascus is Rezin (within 65 years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people),

<sup>9</sup> the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all.

<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz:

<sup>11</sup> "Ask for a sign from the LORD your God--from the depths of Sheol to the heights of heaven."

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz replied, "I will not ask. I will not test the LORD."

<sup>13</sup> Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God?

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.

<sup>15</sup> By the time he learns to reject what is bad and choose what is good, he will be eating butter and honey.

<sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows to reject what is bad and choose what is good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring on you, your people, and the house of your father, such a time as has never been since Ephraim separated from Judah--the king of Assyria is coming .



<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD will whistle to the fly that is at the farthest streams of the Nile and to the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

<sup>19</sup> All of them will come and settle in the steep ravines, in the clefts of the rocks, in all the thornbushes, and in all the water holes.

<sup>20</sup> On that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the Euphrates River--the king of Assyria--to shave the head, the hair on the legs, and to remove the beard as well.

<sup>21</sup> On that day a man will raise a young cow and two sheep,

<sup>22</sup> and from the abundant milk they give he will eat butter, for every survivor in the land will eat butter and honey.

<sup>23</sup> And on that day every place where there were 1,000 vines, worth 1,000 pieces of silver, will become thorns and briars.

<sup>24</sup> A man will go there with bow and arrows because the whole land will be thorns and briers.

<sup>25</sup> You will not go to all the hills that were once tilled with a hoe, for fear of the thorns and briers. Those hills will be places for oxen to graze and for sheep to trample.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large piece of parchment and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-shalal-hash-baz.

<sup>2</sup> I have appointed trustworthy witnesses--Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberechiah."

<sup>3</sup> I was then intimate with the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. The LORD said to me, "Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz,

<sup>4</sup> for before the boy knows how to call out father or mother, the wealth of

Damascus and the spoils of Samaria will be carried off to the king of Assyria."

<sup>5</sup> The LORD spoke to me again:

<sup>6</sup> Because these people rejected the slowly flowing waters of Shiloah and rejoiced with Rezin and the son of Remaliah,

<sup>7</sup> the Lord will certainly bring against them the mighty rushing waters of the Euphrates River--the king of Assyria and all his glory. It will overflow its channels and spill over all its banks.

<sup>8</sup> It will pour into Judah, flood over it, and sweep through, reaching up to the neck; and its spreading streams will fill your entire land, Immanuel!

<sup>9</sup> Band together, peoples, and be broken; pay attention, all you distant lands; prepare for war, and be broken; prepare for war, and be broken.

<sup>10</sup> Devise a plan; it will fail. Make a prediction; it will not happen. For God is with us.

<sup>11</sup> For this is what the LORD said to me with great power, to keep me from going the way of this people:

<sup>12</sup> Do not call everything an alliance these people say is an alliance. Do not fear what they fear; do not be terrified.

<sup>13</sup> You are to regard only the LORD of Hosts as holy. Only He should be feared; only He should be held in awe.

<sup>14</sup> He will be a sanctuary; but for the two houses of Israel, He will be a stone to stumble over and a rock to trip over, and a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> Many will stumble over these; they will fall and be broken; they will be snared and captured.

<sup>16</sup> Bind up the testimony. Seal up the instruction among my disciples.

<sup>17</sup> I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob. I will wait for Him.

<sup>18</sup> Here I am with the children the LORD has given me to be signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of Hosts who dwells on Mount Zion.

<sup>19</sup> When they say to you, "Consult the spirits of the dead and the spiritists who chirp and mutter," shouldn't a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?

<sup>20</sup> To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them.

<sup>21</sup> They will wander through the land, dejected and hungry. When they are famished, they will become enraged, and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God.

<sup>22</sup> They will look toward the earth and see only distress, darkness, and the

gloom of affliction, and they will be driven into thick darkness.

**9**<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future He will bring honor to the Way of the Sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased its joy. The people have rejoiced before You as they rejoice at harvest time and as they rejoice when dividing spoils.

<sup>4</sup> For You have shattered their burdensome yoke and the rod on their shoulders, the staff of their oppressor, just as You did on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For the trampling boot of battle and the bloodied garments of war will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord sent a message against Jacob; it came against Israel.

<sup>9</sup> All the people--Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria--will know it. They will say with pride and arrogance:

<sup>10</sup> "The bricks have fallen, but we will rebuild with cut stones; the sycamores

have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD has raised up Rezin's adversaries against him and stirred up his enemies.

<sup>12</sup> Aram from the east and Philistia from the west have consumed Israel with open mouths. In all this, His anger is not removed, and His hand is still raised to strike .

<sup>13</sup> The people did not turn to Him who struck them; they did not seek the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD cut off Israel's head and tail, palm branch and reed in a single day.

<sup>15</sup> The head is the elder, the honored one; the tail is the prophet, the lying teacher.

<sup>16</sup> The leaders of the people mislead them , and those they mislead are swallowed up.



<sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord does not rejoice over Israel's young men and has no compassion on its fatherless and widows, for everyone is a godless evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. In all this, His anger is not removed, and His hand is still raised to strike .

<sup>18</sup> For wickedness burns like a fire that consumes thorns and briers and kindles the forest thickets so that they go up in a column of smoke.

<sup>19</sup> The land is scorched by the wrath of the LORD of Hosts, and the people are like fuel for the fire. No one has compassion on his brother.

<sup>20</sup> They carve meat on the right, but they are still hungry; they have eaten on the left, but they are still not satisfied. Each one eats the flesh of his own arm.

<sup>21</sup> Manasseh is with Ephraim, and Ephraim with Manasseh; together, both are against Judah. In all this, His anger is

not removed, and His hand is still raised to strike .

**10** <sup>1</sup> Woe to those enacting crooked statutes and writing oppressive laws

<sup>2</sup> to keep the poor from getting a fair trial and to deprive the afflicted among my people of justice, so that widows can be their spoil and they can plunder the fatherless.

<sup>3</sup> What will you do on the day of punishment when devastation comes from far away? Who will you run to for help? Where will you leave your wealth?

<sup>4</sup> There will be nothing to do except crouch among the prisoners or fall among the slain. In all this, His anger is not removed, and His hand is still raised to strike .

<sup>5</sup> Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger--the staff in their hands is My wrath.

<sup>6</sup> I will send him against a godless nation; I will command him to go against a people destined for My rage, to take spoils, to plunder, and to trample them down like clay in the streets.

<sup>7</sup> But this is not what he intends; this is not what he plans. It is his intent to destroy and to cut off many nations.

<sup>8</sup> For he says: Aren't all my commanders kings?

<sup>9</sup> Isn't Calno like Carchemish? Isn't Hamath like Arpad? Isn't Samaria like Damascus?

<sup>10</sup> As my hand seized the idolatrous kingdoms, whose idols exceeded those of Jerusalem and Samaria,

<sup>11</sup> and as I did to Samaria and its idols will I not also do to Jerusalem and its idols?

<sup>12</sup> But when the Lord finishes all His work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, He will say, "I will punish the king of

Assyria for his arrogant acts and the proud look in his eyes."

<sup>13</sup> For he said: I have done this by my own strength and wisdom, for I am clever. I abolished the borders of nations and plundered their treasures; like a mighty warrior, I subjugated the inhabitants.

<sup>14</sup> My hand has reached out, as if into a nest, to seize the wealth of the nations. Like one gathering abandoned eggs, I gathered the whole earth. No wing fluttered; no beak opened or chirped.

<sup>15</sup> Does an ax exalt itself above the one who chops with it? Does a saw magnify itself above the one who saws with it? As if a staff could wave those who lift it! As if a rod could lift what isn't wood!

<sup>16</sup> Therefore the Lord GOD of Hosts will inflict an emaciating disease on the well-fed of Assyria, and He will kindle a burning fire under its glory.

<sup>17</sup> Israel's Light will become a fire, and its Holy One, a flame. In one day it will burn up Assyria's thorns and thistles.

<sup>18</sup> He will completely destroy the glory of its forests and orchards as a sickness consumes a person.

<sup>19</sup> The remaining trees of its forest will be so few in number that a child could count them.

<sup>20</sup> On that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no longer depend on the one who struck them, but they will faithfully depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>21</sup> The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God.

<sup>22</sup> Israel, even if your people were as numerous as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction has been decreed; justice overflows.

<sup>23</sup> For throughout the land the Lord GOD of Hosts is carrying out a destruction that was decreed.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore, the Lord GOD of Hosts says this: "My people who dwell in Zion, do not fear Assyria, though he strikes you with a rod and raises his staff over you as the Egyptians did.

<sup>25</sup> In just a little while My wrath will be spent and My anger will turn to their destruction."

<sup>26</sup> And the LORD of Hosts will brandish a whip against him as He did when He struck Midian at the rock of Oreb; and He will raise His staff over the sea as He did in Egypt.

<sup>27</sup> On that day his burden will fall from your shoulders, and his yoke from your neck. The yoke will be broken because of his fatness.

<sup>28</sup> Assyria has come to Aiath and has gone through Migron, storing his equipment at Michmash.

<sup>29</sup> They crossed over at the ford, saying, "We will spend the night at Geba." The people of Ramah are trembling; those at Gibeah of Saul have fled.

<sup>30</sup> Cry aloud, daughter of Gallim! Listen, Laishah! Anathoth is miserable.

<sup>31</sup> Madmenah has fled. The inhabitants of Gebim have sought refuge.

<sup>32</sup> Today he will stand at Nob, shaking his fist at the mountain of Daughter Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.

<sup>33</sup> Look, the Lord GOD of Hosts will chop off the branches with terrifying power, and the tall trees will be cut down, the high trees felled.

<sup>34</sup> He is clearing the thickets of the forest with an ax, and Lebanon with its majesty will fall.

**11** <sup>1</sup> Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him—  
a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a  
Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of  
knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> His delight will be in the fear of the  
LORD. He will not judge by what He sees  
with His eyes, He will not execute justice  
by what He hears with His ears,

<sup>4</sup> but He will judge the poor righteously  
and execute justice for the oppressed  
of the land. He will strike the land with  
discipline from His mouth, and He will  
kill the wicked with a command from His  
lips.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness and faithfulness will be  
a belt around His waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, and  
the leopard will lie down with the goat.  
The calf, the young lion, and the fatling



will be together, and a child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear will graze, their young ones will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like an ox.

<sup>8</sup> An infant will play beside the cobra's pit, and a toddler will put his hand into a snake's den.

<sup>9</sup> No one will harm or destroy on My entire holy mountain, for the land will be as full of the knowledge of the LORD as the sea is filled with water.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples. The nations will seek Him, and His resting place will be glorious.

<sup>11</sup> On that day the Lord will extend His hand a second time to recover--from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the coasts and islands of the west--the remnant of His people who survive.

<sup>12</sup> He will lift up a banner for the nations and gather the dispersed of Israel; He will collect the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

<sup>13</sup> Ephraim's envy will cease; Judah's harassment will end. Ephraim will no longer be envious of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim.

<sup>14</sup> But they will swoop down on the Philistine flank to the west. Together they will plunder the people of the east. They will extend their power over Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be their subjects.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD will divide the Gulf of Suez. He will wave His hand over the Euphrates with His mighty wind and will split it into seven streams, letting people walk through on foot.

<sup>16</sup> There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will survive from Assyria, as there was for Israel

when they came up from the land of Egypt.

**12** <sup>1</sup> On that day you will say: "I will praise You, LORD, although You were angry with me. Your anger has turned away, and You have had compassion on me.

<sup>2</sup> Indeed, God is my salvation. I will trust Him and not be afraid. Because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and my song, He has become my salvation."

<sup>3</sup> You will joyfully draw water from the springs of salvation,

<sup>4</sup> and on that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD; proclaim His name! Celebrate His deeds among the peoples. Declare that His name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious things. Let this be known throughout the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Cry out and sing, citizen of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is among you in His greatness."

**13** <sup>1</sup> An oracle against Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw:

<sup>2</sup> Lift up a banner on a barren mountain. Call out to them. Wave your hand, and they will go through the gates of the nobles.

<sup>3</sup> I have commanded My chosen ones; I have also called My warriors, who exult in My triumph, to execute My wrath.

<sup>4</sup> Listen, a tumult on the mountains, like that of a mighty people! Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms, like nations being gathered together! The LORD of Hosts is mobilizing an army for war.

<sup>5</sup> They are coming from a far land, from the distant horizon--the LORD and the weapons of His wrath--to destroy the whole country.

<sup>6</sup> Wail! For the day of the LORD is near. It will come like destruction from the Almighty.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore everyone's hands will become weak, and every man's heart will melt.

<sup>8</sup> They will be horrified; pain and agony will seize them ; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look at each other, their faces flushed with fear.

<sup>9</sup> Look, the day of the LORD is coming--cruel, with rage and burning anger--to make the earth a desolation and to destroy the sinners on it.

<sup>10</sup> Indeed, the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shine.

<sup>11</sup> I will bring disaster on the world, and their own iniquity, on the wicked. I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant and humiliate the insolence of tyrants.

<sup>12</sup> I will make man scarcer than gold, and mankind more rare than the gold of Ophir.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will shake from its foundations at the wrath of the LORD of Hosts, on the day of His burning anger.

<sup>14</sup> Like wandering gazelles and like sheep without a shepherd, each one will turn to his own people, each one will flee to his own land.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever is found will be stabbed, and whoever is caught will die by the sword.

<sup>16</sup> Their children will be smashed to death before their eyes; their houses will be looted, and their wives raped.

<sup>17</sup> Look! I am stirring up the Medes against them, who cannot be bought off with silver and who have no desire for gold.

<sup>18</sup> Their bows will cut young men to pieces. They will have no compassion on little ones; they will not look with pity on children.

<sup>19</sup> And Babylon, the jewel of the kingdoms, the glory of the pride of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.

<sup>20</sup> It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; a nomad will not pitch his tent there, and shepherds will not let their flocks rest there.

<sup>21</sup> But wild animals will lie down there, and owls will fill the houses. Ostriches will dwell there, and wild goats will leap about.

<sup>22</sup> Hyenas will howl in the fortresses, and jackals, in the luxurious palaces. Babylon's time is almost up; her days are almost over.

**14** <sup>1</sup> For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will choose Israel again. He will settle them on their own land. The foreigner will join them and be united with the house of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> The nations will escort Israel and bring it to its homeland. Then the house of Israel will possess them as male and female slaves in the LORD's land. They will make captives of their captors and will rule over their oppressors.

<sup>3</sup> When the LORD gives you rest from your pain, torment, and the hard labor you were forced to do,

<sup>4</sup> you will sing this song of contempt about the king of Babylon and say: How the oppressor has quieted down, and how the raging has become quiet!

<sup>5</sup> The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers.



<sup>6</sup> It struck the peoples in anger with unceasing blows. It subdued the nations in rage with relentless persecution.

<sup>7</sup> All the earth is calm and at rest; people shout with a ringing cry.

<sup>8</sup> Even the cypresses and the cedars of Lebanon rejoice over you: "Since you have been laid low, no woodcutter has come against us."

<sup>9</sup> Sheol below is eager to greet your coming. He stirs up the spirits of the departed for you--all the rulers of the earth. He makes all the kings of the nations rise from their thrones.

<sup>10</sup> They all respond to you, saying: "You too have become as weak as we are; you have become like us!"

<sup>11</sup> Your splendor has been brought down to Sheol, along with the music of your harps. Maggots are spread out under you, and worms cover you."

<sup>12</sup> Shining morning star, how you have fallen from the heavens! You destroyer of nations, you have been cut down to the ground.

<sup>13</sup> You said to yourself: "I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the gods' assembly, in the remotest parts of the North.

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

<sup>15</sup> But you will be brought down to Sheol into the deepest regions of the Pit.

<sup>16</sup> Those who see you will stare at you; they will look closely at you: "Is this the man who caused the earth to tremble, who shook the kingdoms,

<sup>17</sup> who turned the world into a wilderness, who trampled its cities and would not release the prisoners to return home?"

<sup>18</sup> All the kings of the nations lie in splendor, each in his own tomb.

<sup>19</sup> But you are thrown out without a grave, like a worthless branch, covered by those slain with the sword and dumped into a rocky pit like a trampled corpse.

<sup>20</sup> You will not join them in burial, because you destroyed your land and slaughtered your own people. The offspring of evildoers will never be remembered.

<sup>21</sup> Prepare a place of slaughter for his sons, because of the iniquity of their fathers. They never rise up to possess a land or fill the surface of the earth with cities.

<sup>22</sup> "I will rise up against them"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"and I will cut off from Babylon her reputation, remnant, offspring, and posterity"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>23</sup> "I will make her a swampland and a region for wild animals, and I will sweep her away with a broom of destruction." This is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>24</sup> The LORD of Hosts has sworn: As I have planned, so it will be; as I have purposed it, so it will happen.

<sup>25</sup> I will break Assyria in My land; I will tread him down on My mountain. Then his yoke will be taken from them, and his burden will be removed from their shoulders.

<sup>26</sup> This is the plan prepared for the whole earth, and this is the hand stretched out against all the nations.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD of Hosts Himself has planned it; therefore, who can stand in its way? It is His hand that is outstretched, so who can turn it back?

<sup>28</sup> In the year that King Ahaz died, this oracle came:

<sup>29</sup> Don't rejoice, all of you in Philistia, because the rod of the one who struck you is broken. For a viper will come out of the root of a snake, and from its egg comes a flying serpent.

<sup>30</sup> Then the firstborn of the poor will be well fed, and the impoverished will lie down in safety, but I will kill your root with hunger, and your remnant will be slain.

<sup>31</sup> Wail, you gates! Cry out, city! Tremble with fear, all Philistia! For a cloud of dust is coming from the north, and there is no one missing from the invader's ranks.

<sup>32</sup> What answer will be given to the messengers from that nation? The LORD has founded Zion, and His afflicted people find refuge in her.

**15** <sup>1</sup> An oracle against Moab: Ar in Moab is devastated, destroyed

in a night. Kir in Moab is devastated,  
destroyed in a night.

<sup>2</sup> Dibon went up to its temple to weep  
at its high places. Moab wails on Nebo  
and at Medeba. Every head is shaved;  
every beard is cut off.

<sup>3</sup> In its streets they wear sackcloth; on  
its rooftops and in its public squares  
everyone wails, falling down and  
weeping.

<sup>4</sup> Heshbon and Elealeh cry out; their  
voices are heard as far away as Jahaz.  
Therefore the soldiers of Moab cry out,  
and they tremble.

<sup>5</sup> My heart cries out over Moab,  
whose fugitives flee as far as Zoar, to  
Eglath-shelishiyah; they go up the slope  
of Luhith weeping; they raise a cry of  
destruction on the road to Horonaim.

<sup>6</sup> The waters of Nimrim are desolate;  
the grass is withered, the foliage is gone,  
and the vegetation has vanished.

<sup>7</sup> So they carry their wealth and belongings over the Wadi of the Willows.

<sup>8</sup> For their cry echoes throughout the territory of Moab. Their wailing reaches Eglaim; their wailing reaches Beer-elim.

<sup>9</sup> The waters of Dibon are full of blood, but I will bring on Dibon even more than this --a lion for those who escape from Moab, and for the survivors in the land.

**16** <sup>1</sup> Send lambs to the ruler of the land, from Sela in the desert to the mountain of Daughter Zion.

<sup>2</sup> Like a bird fleeing, forced from the nest, the daughters of Moab will be at the fords of the Arnon.

<sup>3</sup> Give us counsel and make a decision. Shelter us at noonday with shade that is as dark as night. Hide the refugee; do not betray the one who flees.

<sup>4</sup> Let my refugees stay with you; be a refuge for Moab from the aggressor. When the oppressor has gone,

destruction has ended, and marauders have vanished from the land.

<sup>5</sup> Then in the tent of David a throne will be established by faithful love. A judge who seeks what is right and is quick to execute justice will sit on the throne forever.

<sup>6</sup> We have heard of Moab's pride--how very proud he is--his haughtiness, his pride, his arrogance, and his empty boasting.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore let Moab wail; let every one of them wail for Moab. Mourn, you who are completely devastated, for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth.

<sup>8</sup> For Heshbon's terraced vineyards and the grapevines of Sibmah have withered. The rulers of the nations have trampled its choice vines that reached as far as Jazer and spread to the desert. Their shoots spread out and reached the Dead Sea.



<sup>9</sup> So I join with Jazer to weep for the vines of Sibmah; I drench Heshbon and Elealeh with my tears. Triumphant shouts have fallen silent over your summer fruit and your harvest.

<sup>10</sup> Joy and rejoicing have been removed from the orchard; no one is singing or shouting for joy in the vineyards. No one tramples grapes in the winepresses. I have put an end to the shouting.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore I moan like the sound of a lyre for Moab, as does my innermost being for Kir-heres.

<sup>12</sup> When Moab appears on the high place, when he tires himself out and comes to his sanctuary to pray, it will do him no good.

<sup>13</sup> This is the message that the LORD previously announced about Moab.

<sup>14</sup> And now the LORD says, "In three years, as a hired worker counts years, Moab's splendor will become an object

of contempt, in spite of a very large population. And those who are left will be few and weak."

**17** <sup>1</sup> An oracle against Damascus:  
Look, Damascus is no longer a city. It has become a ruined heap.

<sup>2</sup> The cities of Aroer are forsaken; they will be places for flocks. They will lie down without fear.

<sup>3</sup> The fortress disappears from Ephraim, and a kingdom from Damascus. The remnant of Aram will be like the splendor of the Israelites. This is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>4</sup> On that day the splendor of Jacob will fade, and his healthy body will become emaciated.

<sup>5</sup> It will be as if a reaper had gathered standing grain--his arm harvesting the heads of grain--and as if one had gleaned heads of grain in the valley of Rephaim.

<sup>6</sup> Only gleanings will be left in Israel, as if an olive tree had been beaten--two or three berries at the very top of the tree, four or five on its fruitful branches. This is the declaration of the LORD, the God of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> On that day people will look to their Maker and will turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> They will not look to the altars they made with their hands or to the Asherahs and incense altars they made with their fingers.

<sup>9</sup> On that day their strong cities will be like the abandoned woods and mountaintops that were abandoned because of the Israelites; there will be desolation.

<sup>10</sup> For you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and you have failed to remember the rock of your strength;

therefore you will plant beautiful plants and set out cuttings from exotic vines.

<sup>11</sup> On the day that you plant, you will help them to grow, and in the morning you will help your seed to sprout, but the harvest will vanish on the day of disease and incurable pain.

<sup>12</sup> Ah! The roar of many peoples--they roar like the roaring of the seas. The raging of the nations--they rage like the raging of mighty waters.

<sup>13</sup> The nations rage like the raging of many waters. He rebukes them, and they flee far away, driven before the wind like chaff on the hills and like dead thistles before a gale.

<sup>14</sup> In the evening--sudden terror! Before morning--it is gone! This is the fate of those who plunder us and the lot of those who ravage us.

**18** <sup>1</sup> Ah! The land of buzzing insect wings beyond the rivers of Cush

<sup>2</sup> sends envoys by sea, in reed vessels on the waters. Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth-skinned, to a people feared near and far, a powerful nation with a strange language, whose land is divided by rivers.

<sup>3</sup> All you inhabitants of the world and you who live on the earth, when a banner is raised on the mountains, look! When a trumpet sounds, listen!

<sup>4</sup> For, the LORD said to me: I will quietly look out from My place, like shimmering heat in sunshine, like a rain cloud in harvest heat.

<sup>5</sup> For before the harvest, when the blossoming is over and the blossom becomes a ripening grape, He will cut off the shoots with a pruning knife, and tear away and remove the branches.

<sup>6</sup> They will all be left for the birds of prey on the hills and for the wild animals of the land. The birds will spend the

summer on them, and all the animals, the winter on them.

<sup>7</sup> At that time a gift will be brought to the LORD of Hosts from a people tall and smooth-skinned, a people feared near and far, a powerful nation with a strange language, whose land is divided by rivers--to Mount Zion, the place of the name of the LORD of Hosts.

**19** <sup>1</sup> An oracle against Egypt: Look, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. Egypt's idols will tremble before Him, and Egypt's heart will melt within it.

<sup>2</sup> I will provoke Egypt against Egypt; each will fight against his brother and each against his friend, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.

<sup>3</sup> Egypt's spirit will be disturbed within it, and I will frustrate its plans. Then they will seek idols, ghosts, spirits of the dead, and spiritists.

<sup>4</sup> I will deliver Egypt into the hands of harsh masters, and a strong king will rule it. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD of Hosts.

<sup>5</sup> The waters of the sea will dry up, and the river will be parched and dry.

<sup>6</sup> The channels will stink; they will dwindle, and Egypt's canals will be parched. Reed and rush will die.

<sup>7</sup> The reeds by the Nile, by the mouth of the river, and all the cultivated areas of the Nile will wither, blow away, and vanish.

<sup>8</sup> Then the fishermen will mourn. All those who cast hooks into the Nile will lament, and those who spread nets on the water will shrivel up.

<sup>9</sup> Those who work with flax will be dismayed; the combers and weavers will turn pale.

<sup>10</sup> Egypt's weavers will be dejected; all her wage earners will be demoralized.

<sup>11</sup> The princes of Zoan are complete fools; Pharaoh's wisest advisers give stupid advice! How can you say to Pharaoh, "I am one of the wise, a student of eastern kings."

<sup>12</sup> Where then are your wise men? Let them tell you and reveal what the LORD of Hosts has planned against Egypt.

<sup>13</sup> The princes of Zoan have been fools; the princes of Memphis are deceived. Her tribal chieftains have led Egypt astray.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD has mixed within her a spirit of confusion. The leaders have made Egypt stagger in all she does, as a drunkard staggers in his vomit.

<sup>15</sup> No head or tail, palm or reed, will be able to do anything for Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> On that day Egypt will be like women. She will tremble with fear because of the threatening hand of the LORD of Hosts when He raises it against her.



<sup>17</sup> The land of Judah will terrify Egypt; whenever Judah is mentioned, Egypt will tremble because of what the LORD of Hosts has planned against it.

<sup>18</sup> On that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear loyalty to the LORD of Hosts. One of the cities will be called the City of the Sun.

<sup>19</sup> On that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the center of the land of Egypt and a pillar to the LORD near her border.

<sup>20</sup> It will be a sign and witness to the LORD of Hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, He will send them a savior and leader, and he will rescue them.

<sup>21</sup> The LORD will make Himself known to Egypt, and Egypt will know the LORD on that day. They will offer sacrifices and

offerings; they will make vows to the LORD and fulfill them.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD will strike Egypt, striking and healing. Then they will return to the LORD and He will hear their prayers and heal them.

<sup>23</sup> On that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. Assyria will go to Egypt, Egypt to Assyria, and Egypt will worship with Assyria.

<sup>24</sup> On that day Israel will form a triple alliance with Egypt and Assyria--a blessing within the land.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD of Hosts will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt My people, Assyria My handiwork, and Israel My inheritance."

**20**<sup>1</sup> In the year that the commander-in-chief, sent by Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and attacked and captured it--

<sup>2</sup> during that time the LORD had spoken through Isaiah son of Amoz, saying, "Go, take off your sackcloth and remove the sandals from your feet," and he did so, going naked and barefoot--

<sup>3</sup> the LORD said, "As My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot three years as a sign and omen against Egypt and Cush,

<sup>4</sup> so the king of Assyria will lead the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, young and old alike, naked and barefoot, with bared buttocks, to Egypt's shame.

<sup>5</sup> Those who made Cush their hope and Egypt their boast will be dismayed and ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> And the inhabitants of this coastland will say on that day: Look, this is what has happened to those we relied on and fled to for help to rescue us from the king of Assyria! Now, how will we escape?"

**21** <sup>1</sup> An oracle against the desert by the sea: Like storms that pass over the Negev, it comes from the desert, from the land of terror.

<sup>2</sup> A troubling vision is declared to me: "The treacherous one acts treacherously, and the destroyer destroys. Advance, Elam! Lay siege, you Medes! I will put an end to all her groaning."

<sup>3</sup> Therefore I am filled with anguish. Pain grips me, like the pain of a woman in labor. I am too perplexed to hear, too dismayed to see.

<sup>4</sup> My heart staggers; horror terrifies me. He has turned my last glimmer of hope into sheer terror.

<sup>5</sup> Prepare a table, and spread out a carpet! Eat and drink! Rise up, you princes, and oil the shields!

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord has said to me, "Go, post a lookout; let him report what he sees.

<sup>7</sup> When he sees riders--pairs of horsemen, riders on donkeys, riders on camels--pay close attention."

<sup>8</sup> Then the lookout reported, "Lord, I stand on the watchtower all day, and I stay at my post all night.

<sup>9</sup> Look, riders come--horsemen in pairs." And he answered, saying, "Babylon has fallen, has fallen. All the idols of her gods have been shattered on the ground."

<sup>10</sup> My downtrodden and threshed people, I have declared to you what I have heard from the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel.

<sup>11</sup> An oracle against Dumah: One calls to me from Seir, "Watchman, what is left of the night? Watchman, what is left of the night?"

<sup>12</sup> The watchman said, "Morning has come, and also night. If you want to ask, ask! Come back again."

<sup>13</sup> An oracle against Arabia: You will camp for the night in the scrublands of the desert, you caravans of Dedanites.

<sup>14</sup> Bring water for the thirsty. The inhabitants of the land of Tema meet the refugees with food.

<sup>15</sup> For they have fled from swords, from the drawn sword, and from the bent bow, from the stress of battle.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord said this to me: "Within one year, as a hired worker counts years, all the glory of Kedar will be gone.

<sup>17</sup> The remaining Kedarite archers will be few in number." For the LORD, the God of Israel, has spoken.

**22** <sup>1</sup> An oracle against the Valley of Vision: What's the matter with you? Why have all of you gone up to the rooftops?

<sup>2</sup> The noisy city, the jubilant town, is filled with revelry. Your dead did not die

by the sword; they were not killed in battle.

<sup>3</sup> All your rulers have fled together, captured without a bow. All your fugitives were captured together; they had fled far away.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore I said, "Look away from me! Let me weep bitterly! Do not try to comfort me about the destruction of my dear people."

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord GOD of Hosts had a day of tumult, trampling, and bewilderment in the Valley of Vision--people shouting and crying to the mountains;

<sup>6</sup> Elam took up a quiver with chariots and horsemen, and Kir uncovered the shield.

<sup>7</sup> Your best valleys were full of chariots, and horsemen were positioned at the gates.

<sup>8</sup> He removed the defenses of Judah.  
On that day you looked to the weapons  
in the House of the Forest.

<sup>9</sup> You saw that there were many  
breaches in the walls of the city of David.  
You collected water from the lower pool.

<sup>10</sup> You counted the houses of Jerusalem  
so that you could tear them down to  
fortify the wall.

<sup>11</sup> You made a reservoir between the  
walls for the waters of the ancient  
pool, but you did not look to the One  
who made it, or consider the One who  
created it long ago.

<sup>12</sup> On that day the Lord GOD of Hosts  
called for weeping, for wailing, for  
shaven heads, and for the wearing of  
sackcloth.

<sup>13</sup> But look: joy and gladness, butchering  
of cattle, slaughtering of sheep, eating of  
meat, and drinking of wine--"Let us eat  
and drink, for tomorrow we die!"



<sup>14</sup> The LORD of Hosts has revealed this in my hearing: "This sin of yours will never be wiped out." The Lord GOD of Hosts has spoken.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord GOD of Hosts said: "Go to Shebna, that steward who is in charge of the palace, and say to him:

<sup>16</sup> What are you doing here? Who authorized you to carve out a tomb for yourself here, carving your tomb on the height and cutting a crypt for yourself out of rock?

<sup>17</sup> Look, young man! The LORD is about to shake you violently. He will take hold of you,

<sup>18</sup> wind you up into a ball, and sling you into a wide land. There you will die, and there your glorious chariots will be--a disgrace to the house of your lord.

<sup>19</sup> I will remove you from your office; you will be ousted from your position.

<sup>20</sup> "On that day I will call for my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

<sup>21</sup> I will clothe him with your robe and tie your sash around him. I will put your authority into his hand, and he will be like a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.

<sup>22</sup> I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; what he opens, no one can close; what he closes, no one can open.

<sup>23</sup> I will drive him, like a peg, into a firm place. He will be a throne of honor for his father's house.

<sup>24</sup> They will hang on him the whole burden of his father's house: the descendants and the offshoots--all the small vessels, from bowls to every kind of jar.

<sup>25</sup> On that day"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"the peg that was driven into a firm place will give way, be

cut off, and fall, and the load on it will be destroyed." Indeed, the LORD has spoken.

**23** <sup>1</sup> An oracle against Tyre: Wail, ships of Tarshish, for your haven has been destroyed. Word has reached them from the land of Cyprus.

<sup>2</sup> Mourn, inhabitants of the coastland, you merchants of Sidon; your agents have crossed the sea

<sup>3</sup> on many waters. Tyre's revenue was the grain from Shihor--the harvest of the Nile. She was the merchant among the nations.

<sup>4</sup> Be ashamed Sidon, the stronghold of the sea, for the sea has spoken: "I have not been in labor or given birth. I have not raised young men or brought up young women."

<sup>5</sup> When the news reaches Egypt, they will be in anguish over the news about Tyre.

<sup>6</sup> Cross over to Tarshish; wail,  
inhabitants of the coastland!

<sup>7</sup> Is this your jubilant city , whose origin  
was in ancient times, whose feet have  
taken her to settle far away?

<sup>8</sup> Who planned this against Tyre, the  
bestower of crowns, whose traders  
are princes, whose merchants are the  
honored ones of the earth?

<sup>9</sup> The LORD of Hosts planned it, to  
desecrate all its glorious beauty, to  
disgrace all the honored ones of the  
earth.

<sup>10</sup> Overflow your land like the Nile,  
daughter of Tarshish; there is no longer  
anything to restrain you .

<sup>11</sup> He stretched out His hand over  
the sea; He made kingdoms tremble.  
The LORD has commanded that the  
Canaanite fortresses be destroyed.

<sup>12</sup> He said, "You will not rejoice any  
more, ravished young woman, daughter

of Sidon. Get up and cross over to Cyprus--even there you will have no rest!"

<sup>13</sup> Look at the land of Chaldeans--a people who no longer exist. Assyria destined it for wild beasts. They set up their siege towers and stripped its palaces. They made it a ruin.

<sup>14</sup> Wail, ships of Tarshish, because your fortress is destroyed!

<sup>15</sup> On that day Tyre will be forgotten for 70 years--the life span of one king. At the end of 70 years, what the song says about the prostitute will happen to Tyre:

<sup>16</sup> Pick up your harp, stroll through the city, prostitute forgotten by men . Play skillfully, sing many a song, and you will be thought of again.

<sup>17</sup> And at the end of the 70 years, the LORD will restore Tyre and she will go back into business, prostituting herself

with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.

<sup>18</sup> But her profits and wages will be dedicated to the LORD. They will not be stored or saved, for her profit will go to those who live in the LORD's presence, to provide them with ample food and sacred clothing.

**24** <sup>1</sup> Look, the LORD is stripping the earth bare and making it desolate. He will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants:

<sup>2</sup> people and priest alike, servant and master, female servant and mistress, buyer and seller, lender and borrower, creditor and debtor.

<sup>3</sup> The earth will be stripped completely bare and will be totally plundered, for the LORD has spoken this message.

<sup>4</sup> The earth mourns and withers; the world wastes away and withers; the exalted people of the earth waste away.

<sup>5</sup> The earth is polluted by its inhabitants, for they have transgressed teachings, overstepped decrees, and broken the everlasting covenant.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore a curse has consumed the earth, and its inhabitants have become guilty; the earth's inhabitants have been burned, and only a few survive.

<sup>7</sup> The new wine mourns; the vine withers. All the carousers now groan.

<sup>8</sup> The joyful tambourines have ceased. The noise of the jubilant has stopped. The joyful lyre has ceased.

<sup>9</sup> They no longer sing and drink wine; beer is bitter to those who drink it.

<sup>10</sup> The city of chaos is shattered; every house is closed to entry.

<sup>11</sup> In the streets they cry for wine. All joy grows dark; earth's rejoicing goes into exile.

<sup>12</sup> Only desolation remains in the city; its gate has collapsed in ruins.

<sup>13</sup> For this is how it will be on earth among the nations: like a harvested olive tree, like a gleaning after a grape harvest.

<sup>14</sup> They raise their voices, they sing out; they proclaim in the west the majesty of the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore in the east honor the LORD! In the islands of the west honor the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

<sup>16</sup> From the ends of the earth we hear songs: The Splendor of the Righteous One. But I said, "I waste away! I waste away! Woe is me." The treacherous act treacherously; the treacherous deal very treacherously.

<sup>17</sup> Terror, pit, and snare await you who dwell on the earth.

<sup>18</sup> Whoever flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit, and whoever escapes from the pit will be caught in a snare. For the windows are opened from above,



and the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>19</sup> The earth is completely devastated; the earth is split open; the earth is violently shaken.

<sup>20</sup> The earth staggers like a drunkard and sways like a hut. Earth's rebellion weighs it down, and it falls, never to rise again.

<sup>21</sup> On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven above and kings of the earth below.

<sup>22</sup> They will be gathered together like prisoners in a pit. They will be confined to a dungeon; after many days they will be punished.

<sup>23</sup> The moon will be put to shame and the sun disgraced, because the LORD of Hosts will reign as king on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and He will display His glory in the presence of His elders.

**25** <sup>1</sup> LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You. I will praise Your name, for You have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup> For You have turned the city into a pile of rubble, a fortified city, into a ruin; the fortress of barbarians is no longer a city; it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, a strong people will honor You. A city of violent people will fear You.

<sup>4</sup> For You have been a stronghold for the poor, a stronghold for the humble person in his distress, a refuge from the rain, a shade from the heat. When the breath of the violent is like rain against a wall,

<sup>5</sup> like heat in a dry land, You subdue the uproar of barbarians. As the shade of a cloud cools the heat of the day, so He stills the song of the violent.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD of Hosts will prepare a feast for all the peoples on this mountain--a feast of aged wine, choice meat, finely aged wine.

<sup>7</sup> On this mountain He will destroy the burial shroud, the shroud over all the peoples, the sheet covering all the nations;

<sup>8</sup> He will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face and remove His people's disgrace from the whole earth, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> On that day it will be said, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He has saved us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him. Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

<sup>10</sup> For the LORD's power will rest on this mountain. But Moab will be trampled in his place as straw is trampled in a dung pile.

<sup>11</sup> He will spread out his arms in the middle of it, as a swimmer spreads out his arms to swim. His pride will be brought low, along with the trickery of his hands.

<sup>12</sup> The high-walled fortress will be brought down, thrown to the ground, to the dust.

**26** <sup>1</sup> On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city. Salvation is established as walls and ramparts.

<sup>2</sup> Open the gates so a righteous nation can come in--one that remains faithful.

<sup>3</sup> You will keep in perfect peace the mind that is dependent on You , for it is trusting in You.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever, because in Yah, the LORD, is an everlasting rock!

<sup>5</sup> For He has humbled those who live in lofty places--an inaccessible city. He

brings it down; He brings it down to the ground; He throws it to the dust.

<sup>6</sup> Feet trample it, the feet of the humble, the steps of the poor.

<sup>7</sup> The path of the righteous is level; You clear a straight path for the righteous.

<sup>8</sup> Yes, LORD, we wait for You in the path of Your judgments. Our desire is for Your name and renown.

<sup>9</sup> I long for You in the night; yes, my spirit within me diligently seeks You, for when Your judgments are in the land, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> But if the wicked is shown favor, he does not learn righteousness. In a righteous land he acts unjustly and does not see the majesty of the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> LORD, Your hand is lifted up to take action , but they do not see it. They will see Your zeal for Your people, and they

will be put to shame. The fire for Your adversaries will consume them!

<sup>12</sup> LORD, You will establish peace for us, for You have also done all our work for us.

<sup>13</sup> LORD, our God, other lords than You have ruled over us, but we remember Your name alone.

<sup>14</sup> The dead do not live; departed spirits do not rise up. Indeed, You have visited and destroyed them; You have wiped out all memory of them.

<sup>15</sup> You have added to the nation, LORD. You have added to the nation; You are honored. You have expanded all the borders of the land.

<sup>16</sup> LORD, they went to You in their distress; they poured out whispered prayers because Your discipline fell on them.

<sup>17</sup> As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pains, so we were before You, LORD.

<sup>18</sup> We became pregnant, we writhed in pain; we gave birth to wind. We have won no victories on earth, and the earth's inhabitants have not fallen.

<sup>19</sup> Your dead will live; their bodies will rise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust! For you will be covered with the morning dew, and the earth will bring forth the departed spirits.

<sup>20</sup> Go, my people, enter your rooms and close your doors behind you. Hide for a little while until the wrath has passed.

<sup>21</sup> For look, the LORD is coming from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. The earth will reveal the blood shed on it and will no longer conceal her slain.

**27** <sup>1</sup> On that day the LORD with His harsh, great, and strong sword,

will bring judgment on Leviathan, the fleeing serpent--Leviathan, the twisting serpent. He will slay the monster that is in the sea.

<sup>2</sup> On that day sing about a desirable vineyard:

<sup>3</sup> I, the LORD, watch over it; I water it regularly. I guard it night and day so that no one disturbs it.

<sup>4</sup> I am not angry, but if it produces thorns and briers for Me, I will fight against it, trample it, and burn it to the ground.

<sup>5</sup> Or let it take hold of My strength; let it make peace with Me--make peace with Me.

<sup>6</sup> In days to come, Jacob will take root. Israel will blossom and bloom and fill the whole world with fruit.

<sup>7</sup> Did the LORD strike Israel as He struck the one who struck Israel? Was he killed like those killed by Him?



<sup>8</sup> You disputed with her by banishing and driving her away. He removed her with His severe storm on the day of the east wind.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore Jacob's iniquity will be purged in this way, and the result of the removal of his sin will be this: when he makes all the altar stones like crushed bits of chalk, no Asherah poles or incense altars will remain standing.

<sup>10</sup> For the fortified city will be deserted, pastures abandoned and forsaken like a wilderness. Calves will graze there, and there they will spread out and strip its branches.

<sup>11</sup> When its branches dry out, they will be broken off. Women will come and make fires with them, for they are not a people with understanding. Therefore their Maker will not have compassion on them, and their Creator will not be gracious to them.

<sup>12</sup> On that day the LORD will thresh grain from the Euphrates River as far as the Wadi of Egypt, and you Israelites will be gathered one by one.

<sup>13</sup> On that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those lost in the land of Assyria will come, as well as those dispersed in the land of Egypt; and they will worship the LORD at Jerusalem on the holy mountain.

**28** <sup>1</sup> Woe to the majestic crown of Ephraim's drunkards, and to the fading flower of its beautiful splendor, which is on the summit above the rich valley. Woe to those overcome with wine.

<sup>2</sup> Look, the Lord has a strong and mighty one--like a devastating hail storm, like a storm with strong flooding waters. He will bring it across the land with His hand.

<sup>3</sup> The majestic crown of Ephraim's drunkards will be trampled underfoot.

<sup>4</sup> The fading flower of his beautiful splendor, which is on the summit above the rich valley, will be like a ripe fig before the summer harvest. Whoever sees it will swallow it while it is still in his hand.

<sup>5</sup> On that day the LORD of Hosts will become a crown of beauty and a diadem of splendor to the remnant of His people,

<sup>6</sup> a spirit of justice to the one who sits in judgment, and strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

<sup>7</sup> These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments.

<sup>8</sup> Indeed, all their tables are covered with vomit; there is no place without a stench.

<sup>9</sup> Who is he trying to teach? Who is he trying to instruct? Infants just weaned from milk? Babies removed from the breast?

<sup>10</sup> For he says : "Law after law, law after law, line after line, line after line, a little here, a little there."

<sup>11</sup> So He will speak to this people with stammering speech and in a foreign language.

<sup>12</sup> He had said to them: "This is the place of rest, let the weary rest; this is the place of repose." But they would not listen.

<sup>13</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to them: "Law after law, law after law, line after line, line after line, a little here, a little there," so they go stumbling

backwards, to be broken, trapped, and captured.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you mockers who rule this people in Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> For you said, "We have cut a deal with Death, and we have made an agreement with Sheol; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, it will not touch us, because we have made falsehood our refuge and have hidden behind treachery."

<sup>16</sup> Therefore the Lord GOD said: "Look, I have laid a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will be unshakable.

<sup>17</sup> And I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the mason's level." Hail will sweep away the false refuge, and water will flood your hiding place.

<sup>18</sup> Your deal with Death will be dissolved, and your agreement with Sheol will not last. When the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be trampled.

<sup>19</sup> Every time it passes through, it will carry you away; it will pass through every morning--every day and every night. Only terror will cause you to understand the message.

<sup>20</sup> Indeed, the bed is too short to stretch out on, and its cover too small to wrap up in.

<sup>21</sup> For the LORD will rise up as He did at Mount Perazim. He will rise in wrath, as at the valley of Gibeon, to do His work, His strange work, and to perform His task, His disturbing task.

<sup>22</sup> So now, do not mock, or your shackles will become stronger. Indeed, I have heard from the Lord GOD of Hosts

a decree of destruction for the whole land.

<sup>23</sup> Listen and hear my voice. Pay attention and hear what I say.

<sup>24</sup> Does the plowman plow every day to plant seed? Does he continuously break up and cultivate the soil?

<sup>25</sup> When he has leveled its surface, does he not then scatter cumin and sow black cumin? He plants wheat in rows and barley in plots, with spelt as their border.

<sup>26</sup> His God teaches him order; He instructs him.

<sup>27</sup> Certainly black cumin is not threshed with a threshing board, and a cart wheel is not rolled over the cumin. But black cumin is beaten out with a stick, and cumin with a rod.

<sup>28</sup> Bread grain is crushed, but is not threshed endlessly. Though the wheel of the farmer's cart rumbles, his horses do not crush it.

<sup>29</sup> This also comes from the LORD of Hosts. He gives wonderful advice; He gives great wisdom.

**29** <sup>1</sup> Woe to Ariel, Ariel, the city where David camped! Continue year after year; let the festivals recur.

<sup>2</sup> I will oppress Ariel, and there will be mourning and crying, and she will be to Me like an Ariel.

<sup>3</sup> I will camp in a circle around you; I will besiege you with earth ramps, and I will set up my siege towers against you.

<sup>4</sup> You will be brought down; you will speak from the ground, and your words will come from low in the dust. Your voice will be like that of a spirit from the ground; your speech will whisper from the dust.

<sup>5</sup> The multitude of your foes will be like fine dust, and the multitude of the ruthless, like blowing chaff. Then suddenly, in an instant,



<sup>6</sup> you will be visited by the LORD of Hosts with thunder, earthquake, and loud noise, storm, tempest, and a flame of consuming fire.

<sup>7</sup> The multitude of all the nations going out to battle against Ariel--all the attackers, the siege-works against her, and those who oppress her--will then be like a dream, a vision in the night.

<sup>8</sup> It will be like a hungry one who dreams he is eating, then wakes and is still hungry; and like a thirsty one who dreams he is drinking, then wakes and is still thirsty, longing for water. So will be the multitude of all the nations who go to battle against Mount Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Stop and be astonished; blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with beer.

<sup>10</sup> For the LORD has poured out on you an overwhelming urge to sleep; He

has shut your eyes--the prophets, and covered your heads--the seers.

<sup>11</sup> For you the entire vision will be like the words of a sealed document. If it is given to one who can read and he is asked to read it, he will say, "I can't read it, because it is sealed."

<sup>12</sup> And if the document is given to one who cannot read and he is asked to read it, he will say, "I can't read."

<sup>13</sup> The Lord said: Because these people approach Me with their mouths to honor Me with lip-service--yet their hearts are far from Me, and their worship consists of man-made rules learned by rote --

<sup>14</sup> therefore I will again confound these people with wonder after wonder. The wisdom of their wise men will vanish, and the understanding of the perceptive will be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> Woe to those who go to great lengths to hide their plans from the LORD. They

do their works in darkness, and say,  
"Who sees us? Who knows us?"

<sup>16</sup> You have turned things around, as if the potter were the same as the clay. How can what is made say about its maker, "He didn't make me"? How can what is formed say about the one who formed it, "He doesn't understand what he's doing"?

<sup>17</sup> Isn't it true that in just a little while Lebanon will become an orchard, and the orchard will seem like a forest?

<sup>18</sup> On that day the deaf will hear the words of a document, and out of a deep darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

<sup>19</sup> The humble will have joy after joy in the LORD, and the poor people will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>20</sup> For the ruthless one will vanish, the scorner will disappear, and all those who lie in wait with evil intent will be killed--

<sup>21</sup> those who, with their speech, accuse a person of wrongdoing, who set a trap at the gate for the mediator, and without cause deprive the righteous of justice.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, the LORD who redeemed Abraham says this about the house of Jacob: Jacob will no longer be ashamed and his face will no longer be pale.

<sup>23</sup> For when he sees his children, the work of My hands within his nation, they will honor My name, they will honor the Holy One of Jacob and stand in awe of the God of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> Those who are confused will gain understanding and those who grumble will accept instruction.

**30** <sup>1</sup> Woe to the rebellious children! This is the LORD's declaration. They carry out a plan, but not Mine, They make an alliance, but against My will, piling sin on top of sin.

<sup>2</sup> They set out to go down to Egypt without asking My advice, in order to seek shelter under Pharaoh's protection and take refuge in Egypt's shadow.

<sup>3</sup> But Pharaoh's protection will become your shame, and refuge in Egypt's shadow your disgrace.

<sup>4</sup> For though his princes are at Zoan and his messengers reach as far as Hanes,

<sup>5</sup> everyone will be ashamed because of a people who can't help. They are of no benefit, they are no help; they are good for nothing but shame and reproach.

<sup>6</sup> An oracle about the animals of the Negev: Through a land of trouble and distress, of lioness and lion, of viper and flying serpent, they carry their wealth on the backs of donkeys and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people who will not help them.

<sup>7</sup> Egypt's help is completely worthless; therefore, I call her: Rahab Who Just Sits.

<sup>8</sup> Go now, write it on a tablet in their presence and inscribe it on a scroll; it will be for the future, forever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> They are a rebellious people, deceptive children, children who do not obey the LORD's instruction.

<sup>10</sup> They say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy the truth to us. Tell us flattering things. Prophecy illusions.

<sup>11</sup> Get out of the way! Leave the pathway. Rid us of the Holy One of Israel."

<sup>12</sup> Therefore the Holy One of Israel says: "Because you have rejected this message and have trusted in oppression and deceit, and have depended on them,

<sup>13</sup> this iniquity of yours will be like a spreading breach, a bulge in a high wall whose collapse will come very suddenly.

<sup>14</sup> Its collapse will be like the shattering of a potter's jar, crushed to pieces, so

that not even a fragment of pottery will be found among its shattered remains--no fragment large enough to take fire from a hearth or scoop water from a cistern."

<sup>15</sup> For the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said: "You will be delivered by returning and resting; your strength will lie in quiet confidence. But you are not willing."

<sup>16</sup> You say, "No! We will escape on horses"--therefore you will escape!--and, "We will ride on fast horses"--but those who pursue you will be faster.

<sup>17</sup> One thousand will flee at the threat of one, at the threat of five you will flee, until you alone remain like a solitary pole on a mountaintop or a banner on a hill.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just

God. Happy are all who wait patiently for Him.

<sup>19</sup> For you people will live on Zion in Jerusalem and will never cry again. He will show favor to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears, He will answer you.

<sup>20</sup> The Lord will give you meager bread and water during oppression, but your Teacher will not hide Himself any longer. Your eyes will see your Teacher,

<sup>21</sup> and whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: "This is the way. Walk in it."

<sup>22</sup> Then you will defile your silver-plated idols and your gold-plated images. You will throw them away like menstrual cloths, and call them filth.

<sup>23</sup> Then He will send rain for your seed that you have sown in the ground, and the food, the produce of the ground, will



be rich and plentiful. On that day your cattle will graze in open pastures.

<sup>24</sup> The oxen and donkeys that work the ground will eat salted fodder scattered with winnowing shovel and fork.

<sup>25</sup> Streams and watercourses will be on every high mountain and every raised hill on the day of great slaughter when the towers fall.

<sup>26</sup> The moonlight will be as bright as the sunlight, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter--like the light of seven days--on the day that the LORD bandages His people's injuries and heals the wounds He inflicted.

<sup>27</sup> Look, Yahweh comes from far away, His anger burning and heavy with smoke. His lips are full of fury, and His tongue is like a consuming fire.

<sup>28</sup> His breath is like an overflowing torrent that rises to the neck. He comes to sift the nations in a sieve of

destruction and to put a bridle on the jaws of the peoples to lead them astray.

<sup>29</sup> Your singing will be like that on the night of a holy festival, And your heart will rejoice like one who walks to the music of a flute, going up to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

<sup>30</sup> And the LORD will make the splendor of His voice heard and reveal His arm striking in angry wrath and a flame of consuming fire, in driving rain, a torrent, and hailstones.

<sup>31</sup> Assyria will be shattered by the voice of the LORD. He will strike with a rod.

<sup>32</sup> And every stroke of the appointed staff that the LORD brings down on him will be to the sound of tambourines and lyres; He will fight against him with brandished weapons.

<sup>33</sup> Indeed! Topheth has been ready for the king for a long time now. His funeral

pyre is deep and wide, with plenty of fire and wood. The breath of the LORD, like a torrent of brimstone, kindles it.

**31** <sup>1</sup> Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and who depend on horses! They trust in the number of chariots and in the great strength of charioteers. They do not look to the Holy One of Israel and they do not seek the LORD's help.

<sup>2</sup> But He also is wise and brings disaster. He does not go back on what He says; He will rise up against the house of wicked men and against the allies of evildoers.

<sup>3</sup> Egyptians are men, not God; their horses are flesh, not spirit. When the LORD raises His hand to strike , the helper will stumble and the helped will fall; both will perish together.

<sup>4</sup> For this is what the LORD said to me: As a lion or young lion growls over its prey when a band of shepherds is called

out against it, and is not terrified by their shouting or subdued by their noise, so the LORD of Hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill.

<sup>5</sup> Like hovering birds, so the LORD of Hosts will protect Jerusalem--by protecting it , He will rescue it , by sparing it , He will deliver it .

<sup>6</sup> Return to the One the Israelites have greatly rebelled against.

<sup>7</sup> For on that day, each one will reject the silver and gold idols that your own hands have sinfully made.

<sup>8</sup> Then Assyria will fall, but not by human sword; a sword will devour him, but not one made by man. He will flee from the sword, his young men will be put to forced labor.

<sup>9</sup> His rock will pass away because of fear, and his officers will be afraid because of the signal flag. This is the

LORD's declaration--whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

**32** <sup>1</sup> Indeed, a king will reign righteously, and rulers will rule justly.

<sup>2</sup> Each will be like a shelter from the wind, a refuge from the rain, like streams of water in a dry land and the shade of a massive rock in an arid land.

<sup>3</sup> Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen.

<sup>4</sup> The reckless mind will gain knowledge, and the stammering tongue will speak clearly and fluently.

<sup>5</sup> A fool will no longer be called a noble, nor a scoundrel said to be important.

<sup>6</sup> For a fool speaks foolishness and his mind plots iniquity. He lives in a godless way and speaks falsely about the LORD. He leaves the hungry empty and deprives the thirsty of drink.

<sup>7</sup> The scoundrel's weapons are destructive; he hatches plots to destroy the needy with lies, and by charging the poor during a judgment.

<sup>8</sup> But a noble person plans noble things; he stands up for noble causes.

<sup>9</sup> Stand up, you complacent women; listen to me. Pay attention to what I say, you overconfident daughters.

<sup>10</sup> In a little more than a year you overconfident ones will shudder, for the vintage will fail and the harvest will not come.

<sup>11</sup> Shudder, you complacent ones; tremble, you overconfident ones! Strip yourselves bare and put sackcloth about your waists.

<sup>12</sup> Beat your breasts in mourning for the delightful fields and the fruitful vines,

<sup>13</sup> for the ground of my people growing thorns and briers, indeed, for every joyous house in the joyful city.

<sup>14</sup> For the palace will be forsaken, the busy city abandoned. The hill and the watchtower will become barren places forever, the joy of wild asses, and a pasture for flocks,

<sup>15</sup> until the Spirit from heaven is poured out on us. Then the desert will become an orchard, and the orchard will seem like a forest.

<sup>16</sup> Then justice will inhabit the wilderness, and righteousness will dwell in the orchard.

<sup>17</sup> The result of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quiet confidence forever.

<sup>18</sup> Then my people will dwell in a peaceful place, and in safe and restful dwellings.

<sup>19</sup> But hail will level the forest, and the city will sink into the depths.

<sup>20</sup> Happy are you who sow seed beside abundant waters, who let ox and donkey range freely.

**33** <sup>1</sup> Woe, you destroyer never destroyed, you traitor never betrayed! When you have finished destroying, you will be destroyed. When you have finished betraying, they will betray you.

<sup>2</sup> LORD, be gracious to us! We wait for You. Be our strength every morning, and our salvation in time of trouble.

<sup>3</sup> The peoples flee at the thunderous noise; the nations scatter when You rise in Your majesty.

<sup>4</sup> Your spoil will be gathered as locusts are gathered; people will swarm over it like an infestation of locusts.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.



<sup>6</sup> There will be times of security for you--a storehouse of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

<sup>7</sup> Listen! Their warriors cry loudly in the streets; the messengers of peace weep bitterly.

<sup>8</sup> The highways are deserted; travel has ceased. An agreement has been broken, and cities despised. and human life disregarded.

<sup>9</sup> The land mourns and withers; Lebanon is ashamed and decayed. Sharon is like a desert; Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves.

<sup>10</sup> "Now I will rise up," says the LORD. "Now I will lift Myself up. Now I will be exalted.

<sup>11</sup> You will conceive chaff; you will give birth to stubble. Your breath is fire that will consume you.

<sup>12</sup> The peoples will be burned to ashes, like thorns cut down and burned in a fire.

<sup>13</sup> You who are far off, hear what I have done; you who are near, know My strength."

<sup>14</sup> The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling seizes the ungodly: "Who among us can dwell with a consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with ever-burning flames?"

<sup>15</sup> The one who lives righteously and speaks rightly, who refuses gain from extortion, whose hand never takes a bribe, who stops his ears from listening to murderous plots and shuts his eyes to avoid endorsing evil--

<sup>16</sup> he will dwell on the heights; his refuge will be the rocky fortresses, his food provided, his water assured.

<sup>17</sup> Your eyes will see the king in his beauty; you will see a vast land.

<sup>18</sup> Your mind will meditate on the past terror: "Where is the accountant? Where is the tribute collector? Where is the one who spied out our defenses?"

<sup>19</sup> You will no longer see the barbarians, a people whose speech is difficult to comprehend--who stammer in a language that is not understood.

<sup>20</sup> Look at Zion, the city of our festival times. Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a peaceful pasture, a tent that does not wander; its tent pegs will not be pulled up nor will any of its cords be loosened.

<sup>21</sup> For there the majestic One, the LORD, will be for us, a place of rivers and broad streams, where ships that are rowed will not go, and majestic vessels will not 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 ropes are slack; they cannot hold the base of the mast or spread out the flag. Then abundant spoil will be divided, the lame will plunder it,

<sup>24</sup> and none there will say, "I am sick." The people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

**34** <sup>1</sup> You nations, come here and listen; you peoples, pay attention! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it, the world and all that comes from it.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is angry with all the nations--furious with all their armies. He will set them apart for destruction, giving them over to slaughter.

<sup>3</sup> Their slain will be thrown out, and the stench of their corpses will rise; the mountains flow with their blood.

<sup>4</sup> All the heavenly bodies will dissolve. The skies will roll up like a scroll, and their stars will all wither as leaves wither on the vine, and foliage on the fig tree.

<sup>5</sup> When My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens it will then come down on Edom and on the people I have set apart for destruction.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD's sword is covered with blood. It drips 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> The wild oxen will be struck down with them, and young bulls with the mighty bulls. Their land will be soaked with blood, and their soil will be saturated with fat.

<sup>8</sup> For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a time of paying back Edom for its hostility against Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Edom's streams will be turned into pitch, her soil into sulfur; her land will become burning pitch.

<sup>10</sup> It will never go out--day or night. Its smoke will go up forever. It will be desolate, from generation to generation; no one will pass through it forever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> The desert owl and the hedgehog will possess it, and the great owl and the raven will dwell there. The LORD will stretch out a measuring line and a plumb line over her for her destruction and chaos.

<sup>12</sup> No nobles will be left to proclaim a king, and all her princes will come to nothing.

<sup>13</sup> Her palaces will be overgrown with thorns; her fortified cities, with thistles and briers. She will become a dwelling for jackals, an abode for ostriches.

<sup>14</sup> The wild beasts will meet hyenas, and one wild goat will call to another. Indeed, the screech owl will stay there and will find a resting place for herself.

<sup>15</sup> The sand partridge will make her nest there; she will lay and hatch her eggs and will gather her brood under her shadow. Indeed, the birds of prey will gather there, each with its mate.

<sup>16</sup> Search and read the scroll of the LORD: Not one of them will be missing, none will be lacking its mate, because He has ordered it by my mouth, and He will gather them by His Spirit.

<sup>17</sup> He has ordained a lot for them; His hand allotted their portion with a measuring line. They will possess it forever; they will dwell in it from generation to generation.

**35** <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land will be glad; the desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose.

<sup>2</sup> It will blossom abundantly and will also rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will

see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, steady the shaking knees!

<sup>4</sup> Say to the faint-hearted: "Be strong; do not fear! Here is your God; vengeance is coming. God's retribution is coming; He will save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy, for water will gush in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the parched ground will become a pool of water, and the thirsty land springs of water. In the haunt of jackals, in their lairs, there will be grass, reeds, and papyrus.

<sup>8</sup> A road will be there and a way; it will be called the Holy Way. The unclean will



not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks the path. Even the fool will not go astray.

<sup>9</sup> There will be no lion there, and no vicious beast will go up on it; they will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk on it ,

<sup>10</sup> and the ransomed of the LORD will return and come to Zion with singing, crowned with unending joy. Joy and gladness will overtake them , and sorrow and sighing will flee.

**36** <sup>1</sup> In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria advanced against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.

<sup>2</sup> Then the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh, along with a massive army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. The Assyrian stood near the conduit of the upper pool, by the road to the Fuller's Field.

<sup>3</sup> Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the scribe, and Joah son of Asaph, the record keeper, came out to him.

<sup>4</sup> The Rabshakeh said to them, "Tell Hezekiah: The great king, the king of Assyria, says this: 'What are you basing your confidence on?

<sup>5</sup> I say that your plans and military preparedness are mere words. Now who are you trusting in that you have rebelled against me?

<sup>6</sup> Look, you are trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which will enter and pierce the hand of anyone who leans on it. This is how Pharaoh king of Egypt is to all who trust in him.

<sup>7</sup> Suppose you say to me: We trust in the LORD our God. Isn't He the One whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and

Jerusalem: You are to worship at this altar?

<sup>8</sup> Now make a deal with my master, the king of Assyria. I'll give you 2,000 horses if you can put riders on them!

<sup>9</sup> How then can you repel the attack of even the weakest of my master's officers, and trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?

<sup>10</sup> Have I attacked this land to destroy it without the LORD's approval ? The LORD said to me, 'Attack 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 ; don't speak to us in Hebrew within earshot of the people who are on the wall."

<sup>12</sup> But the Rabshakeh replied, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to

the men who sit on the wall, who are destined with you to eat their excrement and drink their urine?"

<sup>13</sup> Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out loudly in Hebrew: Listen to the words of the great king, the king of Assyria!

<sup>14</sup> The king says: "Don't let Hezekiah deceive you, for he cannot deliver you.

<sup>15</sup> Don't let Hezekiah persuade you to trust the LORD, saying, 'The LORD will surely deliver us. This city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.'"

<sup>16</sup> Don't listen to Hezekiah. For the king of Assyria says: "Make peace with me and surrender to me; then every one of you will eat from his own vine and his own fig tree and drink water from his own cistern

<sup>17</sup> until I come and take you away to a land like your land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

<sup>18</sup> Beware that Hezekiah does not mislead you by saying, 'The LORD will deliver us.' Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered his land from 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 from my hand?

<sup>20</sup> Who of all the gods of these lands ever delivered his land from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem?"

<sup>21</sup> But they were silent and did not answer him at all, for the king's command was, "Don't answer him."

<sup>22</sup> Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the scribe, and Joah son of Asaph, the record keeper, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and they reported to him the words of the Rabshakeh.

**37** <sup>1</sup> When King Hezekiah heard their report , he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went to the house of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Then he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the scribe, and the older priests, wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

<sup>3</sup> They said to him, "Hezekiah says: 'Today is a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace, as when children come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to deliver them.

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master, the king of Assyria, sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke him for the words that the LORD your God has heard. Therefore offer a prayer for the surviving remnant.'"

<sup>5</sup> When King Hezekiah's servants came to Isaiah,

<sup>6</sup> Isaiah said to them, "Say this to your master, 'The LORD says: Don't be afraid because of the words you have heard, which the king of Assyria's attendants have blasphemed Me with.

<sup>7</sup> Look! I am putting a spirit in him and he will hear a rumor and return to his own land, where I will cause him to fall by the sword.'"

<sup>8</sup> When the Rabshakeh heard that the king had left Lachish, he returned and discovered that the king of Assyria was fighting against Libnah.

<sup>9</sup> The king had heard this about Tirhakah, king of Cush: "He has set out to fight against you." So when he heard this, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

<sup>10</sup> "Say this to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Don't let your God, whom you trust, deceive you by saying that Jerusalem

won't be handed over to the king of Assyria.

<sup>11</sup> Look, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries; they destroyed them completely. Will you be rescued?

<sup>12</sup> Did the gods of the nations that my predecessors destroyed rescue them--Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the Edenites in Telassar?

<sup>13</sup> Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, or Ivvah?"

<sup>14</sup> Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers, read it, then went up to the LORD's house and spread it out before the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Hezekiah prayed to the LORD:

<sup>16</sup> "LORD of Hosts, God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are God--You alone--of all the kingdoms



of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth.

<sup>17</sup> Listen closely, LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, LORD, and see; hear all the words that Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God.

<sup>18</sup> LORD, it is true that the kings of Assyria have devastated all these countries and their lands

<sup>19</sup> and have thrown their gods into the fire; for they were not gods but made by human hands--wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.

<sup>20</sup> Now, LORD our God, save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD--You alone."

<sup>21</sup> Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "The LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Because you prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria,

<sup>22</sup> this is the word the LORD has spoken against him: The young woman, Daughter Zion, despises you and scorns you: Daughter Jerusalem shakes her head behind your back.

<sup>23</sup> Who is it you have mocked and blasphemed? Who have you raised your voice against and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> You have mocked the LORD through your servants. You have said: With my many chariots I have gone up to the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon. I cut down its tallest cedars, its choice cypress trees. I came to its remotest heights, its densest forest.

<sup>25</sup> I dug wells and drank water. I dried up all the streams of Egypt with the soles of my feet.

<sup>26</sup> Have you not heard? I designed it long ago; I planned it in days gone by.

I have now brought it to pass, and you have crushed fortified cities into piles of rubble.

<sup>27</sup> Their inhabitants have become powerless, dismayed, and ashamed. They are plants of the field, tender grass, grass on the rooftops, blasted by the east wind.

<sup>28</sup> But I know your sitting down, your going out and your coming in, and your raging against Me.

<sup>29</sup> Because your raging against Me and your arrogance has reached My ears, I will put My hook in your nose and My bit in your mouth; I will make you go back the way you came.

<sup>30</sup> "This will be the sign for you: This year you will eat what grows on its own, and in the second year what grows from that. But in the third year sow and reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>31</sup> The surviving remnant of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

<sup>32</sup> For a remnant will go out from Jerusalem, and survivors from Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.'

<sup>33</sup> "'Therefore, this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or build up an assault ramp against it.

<sup>34</sup> He will go back on the road that he came and he will not enter this city. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>35</sup> I will defend this city and rescue it, because of Me and because of My servant David.'"

<sup>36</sup> Then the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. When the people got

up the next morning--there were all the dead bodies!

<sup>37</sup> So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and left. He returned home and lived in Nineveh.

<sup>38</sup> One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword and escaped to the land of Ararat. Then his son Esar-haddon became king in his place.

**38** <sup>1</sup> In those days Hezekiah became terminally ill. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Put your affairs in order, for you are about to die; you will not recover.'"

<sup>2</sup> Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> He said, "Please, LORD, remember how I have walked before You faithfully and wholeheartedly, 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 tell Hezekiah that this is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Look, I am going to add 15 years to your life.

<sup>6</sup> And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; I will defend this city.

<sup>7</sup> This is the sign to you from the LORD that the LORD will do what He has promised:

<sup>8</sup> I am going to make the sun's shadow that goes down on Ahaz's stairway return by 10 steps." So the sun's shadow went back the 10 steps it had descended.

<sup>9</sup> A poem by Hezekiah king of Judah after he had been sick and had recovered from his illness:

<sup>10</sup> I said: In the prime of my life I must go to the gates of Sheol; I am deprived of the rest of my years.

<sup>11</sup> I said: I will never see the LORD, the LORD in the land of the living; I will not look on humanity any longer with the inhabitants of what is passing away.

<sup>12</sup> My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me like a shepherd's tent. I have rolled up my life like a weaver; He cuts me off from the loom. You make an end of me from day until night.

<sup>13</sup> I thought until the morning: He will break all my bones like a lion; You make an end of me day and night.

<sup>14</sup> I chirp like a swallow or a crane; I moan like a dove. My eyes grow weak looking upward. Lord, I am oppressed; support me.

<sup>15</sup> What can I say? He has spoken to me, and He Himself has done it. I walk

along slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul,

<sup>16</sup> Lord, because of these promises people live, and in all of them is the life of my spirit as well; You have restored me to health and let me live.

<sup>17</sup> Indeed, it was for my own welfare that I had such great bitterness; but Your love has delivered me from the Pit of destruction, for You have thrown all my sins behind Your back.

<sup>18</sup> For Sheol cannot thank You; Death cannot praise You. Those who go down to the Pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness.

<sup>19</sup> The living, only the living can thank You, as I do today; a father will make Your faithfulness known to children

<sup>20</sup> The LORD will save me; we will play 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 lump of figs and apply it to his infected skin, so that he may recover."

<sup>22</sup> And Hezekiah had asked, "What is the sign that I will go up to the LORD's temple?"

**39** <sup>1</sup> At that time Merodach-baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah since he heard that he had been sick and had recovered.

<sup>2</sup> Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them his treasure house--the silver, the gold, the spices, and the precious oil--and all his armory, and everything that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his palace and in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.

<sup>3</sup> Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and asked him, "What did these men say? The men who came to

you--where were they from?" Hezekiah replied, "They came to me from a distant country, from Babylon."

<sup>4</sup> And he asked, "What have they seen in your palace?" Hezekiah answered, "They have seen everything in my palace. There isn't anything in my storehouses that I didn't show them."

<sup>5</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of Hosts:

<sup>6</sup> 'The time will certainly come when everything in your palace and all that your fathers have stored up until this day will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> 'Some of your descendants who come from you will be taken away, and they will be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"

<sup>8</sup> Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken

is good." For he thought: There will be peace and security during my lifetime.

**40** <sup>1</sup> "Comfort, comfort My people," says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and announce to her that her time of servitude is over, her iniquity has been pardoned, and she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth, and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will appear, and all humanity will see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

<sup>6</sup> A voice was saying, "Cry out!" Another said, "What should I cry out?" "All

humanity is grass, and all its goodness is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flowers fade when the breath of the LORD blows on them; indeed, the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever."

<sup>9</sup> Zion, herald of good news, go up on a high mountain. Jerusalem, herald of good news, raise your voice loudly. Raise it, do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with strength, and His power establishes His rule. His reward is with Him, and His gifts accompany Him.

<sup>11</sup> He protects His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them in the fold of His garment . He gently leads those that are nursing.

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand ? Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in scales?

<sup>13</sup> Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or who gave Him His counsel?

<sup>14</sup> Who did He consult with? Who gave Him understanding and taught Him the paths of justice? Who taught Him knowledge and showed Him the way of understanding?

<sup>15</sup> Look, the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are considered as a speck of dust on the scales; He lifts up the islands like fine dust.

<sup>16</sup> Lebanon is not enough for fuel, or its animals enough for a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before Him; they are considered by Him as nothingness and emptiness.

<sup>18</sup> Who will you compare God with?  
What likeness will you compare Him to?

<sup>19</sup> To an idol?--something that a smelter casts, and a metalworker plates with gold and makes silver welds for it ?

<sup>20</sup> To one who shapes a pedestal, choosing wood that does not rot? He looks for a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not fall over.

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not considered the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> God is enthroned above the circle of the earth; its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like thin cloth and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

<sup>23</sup> He reduces princes to nothing and makes the judges of the earth to be irrational.

<sup>24</sup> They are barely planted, barely sown, their stem hardly takes root in the ground when He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind carries them away like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> "Who will you compare Me to, or who is My equal?" asks the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Look up and see: who created these? He brings out the starry host by number; He calls all of them by name. Because of His great power and strength, not one of them is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Jacob, why do you say, and Israel, why do you assert: "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my claim is ignored by my God"?

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth. He never grows faint or weary; there is no limit to His understanding.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Youths may faint and grow weary, and young men stumble and fall,

<sup>31</sup> but those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.

**41** <sup>1</sup> "Be silent before Me, islands! And let peoples renew their strength. Let them approach, then let them testify; let us come together for the trial.

<sup>2</sup> Who has stirred him up from the east? He calls righteousness to his feet. The LORD hands nations over to him, and he subdues kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, like wind-driven stubble with his bow.

<sup>3</sup> He pursues them, going on safely, hardly touching the path with his feet.



<sup>4</sup> Who has performed and done this  
, calling the generations from the  
beginning? I, the LORD, am the first, and  
with the last--I am He."

<sup>5</sup> The islands see and are afraid,  
the ends of the earth tremble. They  
approach and arrive.

<sup>6</sup> Each one helps the other, and says to  
another, "Take courage!"

<sup>7</sup> The craftsman encourages the  
metalworker; the one who flattens with  
the hammer supports the one who  
strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering,  
"It is good." He fastens it with nails so  
that it will not fall over.

<sup>8</sup> But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob,  
whom I have chosen, descendant of  
Abraham, My friend--

<sup>9</sup> I brought you from the ends of the  
earth and called you from its farthest  
corners. I said to you: You are My

servant; I have chosen you and not rejected you.

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand.

<sup>11</sup> Be sure that all who are enraged against you will be ashamed and disgraced; those who contend with you will become as nothing and will perish.

<sup>12</sup> You will look for those who contend with you, but you will not find them. Those who war against you will become absolutely nothing.

<sup>13</sup> For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand and say to you: Do not fear, I will help you.

<sup>14</sup> Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel: I will help you--the LORD's declaration. Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> See, I will make you into a sharp threshing board, new, with many teeth. You will thresh mountains and pulverize them, and make hills like chaff.

<sup>16</sup> You will winnow them and a wind will carry them away, and a gale will scatter them. But you will rejoice in the LORD; you will boast in the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>17</sup> The poor and the needy seek water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them; I, the God of Israel, do not forsake them.

<sup>18</sup> I will open rivers on the barren heights, and springs in the middle of the plains. I will turn the desert into a pool of water and dry land into springs of water.

<sup>19</sup> I will plant cedars in the desert, acacias, myrtles, and olive trees. I will put cypress trees in the desert, elms and box trees together,

<sup>20</sup> so that all may see and know, consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

<sup>21</sup> "Submit your case," says the LORD. "Present your arguments," says Jacob's King.

<sup>22</sup> "Let them come and tell us what will happen. Tell us the past events, so that we may reflect on it and know the outcome. Or tell us the future.

<sup>23</sup> Tell us the coming events, then we will know that you are gods. Indeed, do something good or bad, then we will be in awe and perceive.

<sup>24</sup> Look, you are nothing and your work is worthless. Anyone who chooses you is detestable.

<sup>25</sup> "I have raised up one from the north, and he has come, one from the east who invokes My name. He will march over

rulers as if they were mud, like a potter who treads the clay.

<sup>26</sup> Who told about this from the beginning, so that we might know, and from times past, so that we might say: He is right? No one announced it, no one told it, no one heard your words.

<sup>27</sup> I was the first to say to Zion: Look! Here they are! and I gave a herald of good news to Jerusalem.

<sup>28</sup> When I look, there is no one; there is no counselor among them; when I ask them, they have nothing to say.

<sup>29</sup> Look, all of them are a delusion; their works are nonexistent; their images are wind and emptiness.

**42** <sup>1</sup> "This is My Servant; I strengthen Him, this is My Chosen One; I delight in Him. I have put My Spirit on Him; He will bring justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or shout or make His voice heard in the streets.

<sup>3</sup> He will not break a bruised reed, and  
He will not put out a smoldering wick;  
He will faithfully bring justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow weak or be  
discouraged until He has established  
justice on earth. The islands will wait for  
His instruction."

<sup>5</sup> This is what God the LORD says--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 life to those who walk  
on it--

<sup>6</sup> "I, the LORD, have called you for a  
righteous purpose , and I will hold you  
by your hand. I will keep you, and I make  
you a covenant for the people and a light  
to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> in order to open blind eyes, to bring  
out prisoners from the dungeon, and  
those sitting in darkness from the prison  
house.

<sup>8</sup> I am Yahweh, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, or My praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> The past events have indeed happened. Now I declare new events; I announce them to you before they occur."

<sup>10</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD; sing His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea with all that fills it, you islands with your inhabitants.

<sup>11</sup> Let the desert and its cities shout, the settlements where Kedar dwells cry aloud . Let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy; let them cry out from the mountaintops.

<sup>12</sup> Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare His praise in the islands.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD advances like a warrior; He stirs up His zeal like a soldier. He shouts, He roars aloud, He prevails over His enemies.

<sup>14</sup> "I have kept silent from ages past; I have been quiet and restrained Myself. But now, I will groan like a woman in labor, gasping breathlessly.

<sup>15</sup> I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation. I will turn rivers into islands, and dry up marshes.

<sup>16</sup> I will lead the blind by a way they did not know; I will guide them on paths they have not known. I will turn darkness to light in front of them, and rough places into level ground. This is what I will do for them, and I will not forsake them.

<sup>17</sup> They will be turned back and utterly ashamed--those who trust in idols and say to metal-plated images: You are our gods!

<sup>18</sup> "Listen, you deaf! Look, you blind, so that you may see.

<sup>19</sup> Who is blind but My servant, or deaf like My messenger I am sending? Who is



blind like My dedicated one, or blind like the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup> Though seeing many things, you do not obey. Though his ears are open, he does not listen."

<sup>21</sup> The LORD was pleased, because of His righteousness, to magnify His instruction and make it glorious.

<sup>22</sup> But this is a people plundered and looted, all of them trapped in holes or imprisoned in dungeons. They have become plunder, with no one to rescue them, and loot, with no one saying "Give it back!"

<sup>23</sup> Who among you will pay attention to this? Let him listen and obey in the future.

<sup>24</sup> Who gave Jacob to the robber, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD? Have we not sinned against Him? They were not willing to walk in His

ways, and they would not listen to His instruction.

<sup>25</sup> So He poured out on Jacob His furious anger and the power of war. It surrounded him with fire, but he did not know it ; it burned him, but he paid no attention.

**43** <sup>1</sup> Now this is what the LORD says--the One who created you, Jacob, and the One who formed you, Israel--"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

<sup>2</sup> I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you.

<sup>3</sup> For I the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, and your Savior, give Egypt as

a ransom for you, Cush and Seba in your place.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in My sight and honored, and I love you, I will give human beings in your place, and peoples in place of your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west.

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north: Give them up! and to the south: Do not hold them back! Bring My sons from far away, and My daughters from the ends of the earth--

<sup>7</sup> everyone called by My name and created for My glory. I have formed him; indeed, I have made him."

<sup>8</sup> Bring out a people who are blind, yet have eyes, and are deaf, yet have ears.

<sup>9</sup> All the nations are gathered together, and the peoples are assembled. Who among them can declare this, and tell

us the former things? Let them present their witnesses to vindicate themselves , so that people may hear and say, "It is true."

<sup>10</sup> "You are My witnesses"--the LORD's declaration--"and My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. No god was formed before Me, and there will be none after Me.

<sup>11</sup> I, I am the LORD, and there is no other Savior but Me.

<sup>12</sup> I alone declared, saved, and proclaimed--and not some foreign god among you. So you are My witnesses"--the LORD's declaration--"and I am God.

<sup>13</sup> Also, from today on I am He alone , and no one can take anything from My hand. I act, and who can reverse it?"

<sup>14</sup> This is what the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel says:

Because of you, I will send to Babylon and bring all of them 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> This is what the LORD says--who makes a way in the sea, and a path through surging waters,

<sup>17</sup> who brings out the chariot and horse, the army and the mighty one together (they lie down, they do not rise again; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick)--

<sup>18</sup> "Do not remember the past events, pay no attention to things of old.

<sup>19</sup> Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The animals of the field will honor Me, jackals and ostriches, because I

provide water in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people.

<sup>21</sup> The people I formed for Myself will declare My praise.

<sup>22</sup> "But Jacob, you have not called on Me, because, Israel, you have become weary of Me.

<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 incense.

<sup>24</sup> You have not bought Me aromatic cane with silver, 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> "It is I who sweep away your transgressions for My own sake and remember your sins no more.

<sup>26</sup> Take Me to court; let us argue our case together. State your case , so that you may be vindicated.

<sup>27</sup> Your first father sinned, and your mediators have rebelled against Me.

<sup>28</sup> So I defiled the officers of the sanctuary, and gave Jacob over to total destruction and Israel to abuse.

**44** <sup>1</sup> "And now listen, Jacob My servant, Israel whom I have chosen.

<sup>2</sup> This is the word of the LORD your Maker who shaped you from birth; He will help you: Do not fear; Jacob is My servant; I have chosen Jeshurun.

<sup>3</sup> For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants and My blessing on your offspring.

<sup>4</sup> They will sprout among the grass like poplars by the streambeds.

<sup>5</sup> This one will say: I am the LORD's; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on his hand: The LORD's, and name himself by the name of Israel."

<sup>6</sup> This is what the LORD, the King of Israel and its Redeemer, the LORD of Hosts, says: I am the first and I am the last. There is no God but Me.

<sup>7</sup> Who, like Me, can announce the future ? Let him say so and make a case before Me, since I have established an ancient people. Let these gods declare the coming things, and what will take place.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be startled or afraid. Have I not told you and declared it long ago? You are my witnesses! Is there any God but Me? There is no other Rock; I do not know any.

<sup>9</sup> All who make idols are nothing, and what they treasure does not profit. Their



witnesses do not see or know anything ,  
so they will be put to shame.

<sup>10</sup> Who makes a god or casts a metal  
image for no profit?

<sup>11</sup> Look, all its worshipers will be put to  
shame, and the craftsmen are humans.  
They all will assemble and stand; they all  
will be startled and put to shame.

<sup>12</sup> The ironworker labors over the coals,  
shapes the idol with hammers, and  
works it with his strong arm. Also he  
grows hungry and his strength fails; he  
doesn't drink water and is faint.

<sup>13</sup> The woodworker stretches out a  
measuring line, he outlines it with a  
stylus; he shapes it with chisels and  
outlines it with a compass. He makes  
it according to a human likeness, like a  
beautiful person, to dwell in a temple.

<sup>14</sup> He cuts down cedars for his use, or  
he takes a cypress or an oak. He lets  
it grow strong among the trees of the

forest. He plants a laurel, and the rain makes it grow.

<sup>15</sup> It serves as fuel for man. He takes some of it and warms himself; also he kindles a fire and bakes bread; he even makes it into a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and bows down to it.

<sup>16</sup> He burns half of it in a fire, and he roasts meat on that half. He eats the roast and is satisfied. He warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I see the blaze."

<sup>17</sup> He makes a god or his idol with the rest of it. He bows down to it and worships; He prays to it, "Save me, for you are my god."

<sup>18</sup> Such people do not comprehend and cannot understand, for He has shut their eyes so they cannot see, and their minds so they cannot understand.

<sup>19</sup> No one reflects, no one has the perception or insight to say, "I burned

half of it in the fire, I also baked bread on its coals, I roasted meat and ate. I will make something detestable with the rest of it, and I will bow down to a block of wood."

<sup>20</sup> He feeds on ashes. His deceived mind has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself, or say, "Isn't there a lie in my right hand?"

<sup>21</sup> Remember these things, Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you, you are My servant; Israel, you will never be forgotten by Me.

<sup>22</sup> I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.

<sup>23</sup> Rejoice, heavens, for the LORD has acted; shout, depths of the earth. Break out into singing, mountains, forest, and every tree in it. For the LORD has

redeemed Jacob, and glorifies Himself through Israel.

<sup>24</sup> This is what the LORD, your Redeemer who formed you from the womb, says: I am the LORD, who made everything; who stretched out the heavens by Myself; who alone spread out the earth;

<sup>25</sup> who destroys the omens of the false prophets and makes fools of diviners; who confounds the wise and makes their knowledge foolishness;

<sup>26</sup> who confirms the message of His servant and fulfills the counsel of His messengers; who says to Jerusalem: She will be inhabited, and to the cities of Judah: They will be rebuilt, and I will restore her ruins;

<sup>27</sup> who says to the depths of the sea: Be dry, and I will dry up your rivers;

<sup>28</sup> who says to Cyrus: My shepherd, he will fulfill all My pleasure and say to

Jerusalem: She will be rebuilt, and of the temple: Its foundation will be laid.

**45** <sup>1</sup> The LORD says this to Cyrus, His anointed, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him, to unloose the loins of kings, to open the doors before him and the gates will not be shut:

<sup>2</sup> "I will go before you and level the uneven places; I will shatter the bronze doors and cut the iron bars in two.

<sup>3</sup> I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches from secret places, so that you may know that I, the LORD, the God of Israel call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup> I call you by your name, because of Jacob My servant and Israel My chosen one. I give a name to you, though you do not know Me.

<sup>5</sup> I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God but Me. I will strengthen you, though you do not know Me,

<sup>6</sup> so that all may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is no one but Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.

<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness, I make success and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

<sup>8</sup> "Heavens, sprinkle from above, and let the skies shower righteousness. Let the earth open up that salvation sprout and righteousness spring up with it. I, the LORD, have created it.

<sup>9</sup> "Woe to the one who argues with his Maker--one clay pot among many. Does clay say to the one forming it: What are you making? Or does your work say : He has no hands?

<sup>10</sup> How absurd is the one who says to his father: What are you fathering? or to his mother: What are you giving birth to?"

<sup>11</sup> This is what the LORD, the Holy One of Israel and its Maker, says: "Ask Me what is to happen to My sons, and instruct Me about 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 raised him up in righteousness, and will level all roads for him. He will rebuild My city, and set My exiles free, not for a price or a bribe," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>14</sup> This is what the LORD says: The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush and the Sabeans, men of stature, will come over to you and will be yours; they will follow you, they will come over in chains; and bow down to you. They will confess to you: God is indeed with you, and there is no other; there is no other God.

<sup>15</sup> Yes, You are a God who hides Himself, God of Israel, Savior.

<sup>16</sup> All of them are put to shame, even humiliated; the makers of idols go in humiliation together.

<sup>17</sup> Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will not be put to shame or humiliated for all eternity.

<sup>18</sup> For this is what the LORD says--God is the Creator of the heavens. He formed the earth and made it; He established it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited--"I am the LORD, and there is no other.

<sup>19</sup> I have not spoken in secret, somewhere in a land of darkness. I did not say to the descendants of Jacob: Seek Me in a wasteland. I, the LORD, speak truthfully; I say what is right.

<sup>20</sup> "Come, gather together, and draw near, you fugitives of the nations. Those



who carry their wooden idols, and pray to a god who cannot save, have no knowledge.

<sup>21</sup> Speak up and present your case --yes, let them take counsel together. Who predicted this long ago? Who announced it from ancient times? Was it not I, the LORD? There is no other God but Me, a righteous God and Savior; there is no one except 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; Truth has gone from My mouth, a word that will not be revoked: Every knee will bow to Me, every tongue will swear allegiance.

<sup>24</sup> It will be said to Me: Only in the LORD is righteousness and strength." All who are incensed against Him will come to Him and be put to shame.

<sup>25</sup> All the descendants of Israel will be justified and find glory through the LORD.

**46** <sup>1</sup> Bel crouches; Nebo cowers. Their idols are consigned to beasts and cattle. The images you carry are loaded, as a burden for the weary animal .

<sup>2</sup> The gods cower; they crouch together; they are not able to rescue the burden, but they themselves go into captivity.

<sup>3</sup> "Listen to Me, house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been sustained from the womb, carried along since birth.

<sup>4</sup> I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you up when you turn gray. I have made you , and I will carry you ; I will bear and save you .

<sup>5</sup> "Who will you compare Me or make Me equal to? Who will you measure

Me with, so that we should be like each other?

<sup>6</sup> Those who pour out their bags of gold and weigh out silver on a scales--they hire a goldsmith and he makes it into a god. Then they kneel and bow down to it.

<sup>7</sup> They lift it to their shoulder and bear it along; they set it in its place, and there it stands; it does not budge from its place. They cry out to it but it doesn't answer; it saves no one from his trouble.

<sup>8</sup> "Remember this and be brave; take it to heart, you transgressors!

<sup>9</sup> Remember what happened long ago, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and no one is like Me.

<sup>10</sup> I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: My plan will take place, and I will do all My will.

<sup>11</sup> I call a bird of prey from the east, a man for My purpose from a far country. Yes, I have spoken; so I will also bring it about. I have planned it; I will also do it.

<sup>12</sup> Listen to me, you hardhearted, far removed from justice:

<sup>13</sup> I am bringing My justice near; it is not far away, and My salvation will not delay. I will put salvation in Zion, My splendor in Israel.

**47** <sup>1</sup> "Go down and sit in the dust, Virgin Daughter Babylon. Sit on the ground without a throne, Daughter Chaldea! For you will no longer be called pampered and spoiled.

<sup>2</sup> Take millstones and grind meal; remove your veil, strip off your skirt, bare your thigh, wade through the streams.

<sup>3</sup> Your nakedness will be uncovered, and your shame will be exposed. I will take vengeance; I will spare no one.

<sup>4</sup> The Holy One of Israel is our Redeemer; the LORD of Hosts is His name.

<sup>5</sup> "Daughter Chaldea, sit in silence and go into darkness. For you will no longer be called mistress of kingdoms.

<sup>6</sup> I was angry with My people; I profaned My possession, and I placed them under your control. You showed them no mercy; you made your yoke very heavy on the elderly.

<sup>7</sup> You said: I will be the mistress forever. You did not take these things to heart or think about their outcome.

<sup>8</sup> "So now hear this, lover of luxury, who sits securely, who says to herself: I, and no one else, will never be a widow or know the loss of children.

<sup>9</sup> These two things will happen to you suddenly, in one day: loss of children and widowhood. They will happen to you

in their entirety, in spite of your many sorceries and the potency of your spells.

<sup>10</sup> You were secure in your wickedness; you said: No one sees me. Your wisdom and knowledge led you astray. You said to yourself: I, and no one else.

<sup>11</sup> But disaster will happen to you; you will not know how to avert it. And it will fall on you, but you will be unable to ward it off. Devastation will happen to you suddenly and unexpectedly.

<sup>12</sup> So take your stand with your spells and your many sorceries, which you have wearied yourself with from your youth. Perhaps you will be able to succeed; perhaps you will inspire terror!

<sup>13</sup> You are worn out with your many consultations. So let them stand and save you--the astrologers, who observe the stars, who predict monthly what will happen to you.

<sup>14</sup> Look, they are like stubble; fire burns them up. They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. This is not a coal for warming themselves, or a fire to sit beside!

<sup>15</sup> This is what they are to you--those who have wearied you and have traded with you from your youth--each wanders on his own way; no one can save you.

**48** <sup>1</sup> "Listen to this, house of Jacob-- those who are called by the name Israel and have descended from Judah, who swear by the name of the LORD and declare the God of Israel, but not in truth or righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> For they are named after the Holy City, and lean on the God of Israel; His name is Yahweh of Hosts.

<sup>3</sup> I declared the past events long ago; they came out of My mouth; I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they occurred.

<sup>4</sup> Because I know that you are stubborn, and your neck is iron and your forehead bronze,

<sup>5</sup> therefore I declared to you long ago; I announced it to you before it occurred, so you could not claim: My idol caused them; my carved image and cast idol control them.

<sup>6</sup> You have heard it. Observe it all. Will you not acknowledge it? From now on I will announce new things to you, hidden things that you have not known.

<sup>7</sup> They have been created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today, so you could not claim, "I already knew them!"

<sup>8</sup> You have never heard; you have never known; For a long time your ears have not been open. For I knew that you were very treacherous, and were known as a rebel from birth.



<sup>9</sup> I will delay My anger for the honor of My name, and I will restrain Myself for your benefit and for My praise, so that you will not be destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> Look, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

<sup>11</sup> I will act for My own sake, indeed, My own, for how can I be defiled? I will not give My glory to another.

<sup>12</sup> "Listen to Me, Jacob, and Israel, the one called by Me: I am He; I am the first, I am also the last.

<sup>13</sup> My own hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I summoned them, they stood up together.

<sup>14</sup> All of you, assemble and listen! Who among the idols has declared these things? The LORD loves him; he will accomplish His will against Babylon, and His arm will be against the Chaldeans.

<sup>15</sup> I--I have spoken; yes, I have called him; I have brought him, and he will succeed in his mission.

<sup>16</sup> Approach Me and listen to this. From the beginning I have not spoken in secret; from the time anything existed, I was there." And now the Lord GOD has sent me and His Spirit.

<sup>17</sup> This is what the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel says: I am the LORD your God, who teaches you for your benefit, who leads you in the way you should go.

<sup>18</sup> If only you had paid attention to My commands. Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

<sup>19</sup> Your descendants would have been as countless as the sand, and the offspring of your body like its grains; their name would not be cut off or eliminated from My presence.

<sup>20</sup> Leave Babylon, flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with a shout of joy, proclaim this, let it go out to the end of the earth; announce, "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 water gushed out.

<sup>22</sup> "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."

**49** <sup>1</sup> Coastlands, listen to me; distant peoples, pay attention. The LORD called me before I was born. He named me while I was in my mother's womb.

<sup>2</sup> He made my words like a sharp sword; He hid me in the shadow of His hand. He made me like a sharpened arrow; He hid me in His quiver.

<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are My servant, Israel; I will be glorified in him."

<sup>4</sup> But I myself said: I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and futility; yet my vindication is with the LORD, and my reward is with my God.

<sup>5</sup> And now, says the LORD, who formed me from the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to Him so that Israel might be gathered to Him; for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God is my strength--

<sup>6</sup> He says, "It is not enough for you to be My servant raising up the tribes of Jacob and restoring the protected ones of Israel. I will also make you a light for the nations, to be My salvation to the ends of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, his Holy One says to one who is despised, to one abhorred by people, to a servant of rulers: "Kings will see and stand up, and princes will bow down,

because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel--and He has chosen you."

<sup>8</sup> This is what the LORD says: I will answer you in a time of favor, and I will help you in the day of salvation. I will keep you, and I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land, to make them possess the desolate inheritances,

<sup>9</sup> saying to the prisoners: Come out, and to those who are in darkness: Show yourselves. They will feed along the pathways, and their pastures will be on all the barren heights.

<sup>10</sup> They will not hunger or thirst, the scorching heat or sun will not strike them; for their compassionate One will guide them, and lead them to springs of water.

<sup>11</sup> I will make all My mountains into a road, and My highways will be raised up.

<sup>12</sup> See, these will come from far away, from the north and from the west, and from the land of Sinim.

<sup>13</sup> Shout for joy, you heavens! Earth, rejoice! Mountains break into joyful shouts! For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have compassion on His afflicted ones.

<sup>14</sup> Zion says, "The LORD has abandoned me; The Lord has forgotten me!"

<sup>15</sup> "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for the child of her womb? Even if these forget, yet I will not forget you.

<sup>16</sup> Look, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me.

<sup>17</sup> Your builders hurry; those who destroy and devastate you will leave you.

<sup>18</sup> Look up, and look around. They all gather together; they come to you. As I live"--the LORD's declaration--"you will

wear all your children as jewelry, and put them on as a bride does.

<sup>19</sup> For your waste and desolate places and your land marked by ruins--will now be indeed too small for the inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up will be far away.

<sup>20</sup> The children that you have been deprived of will yet say in your hearing: This place is too small for me; make room for me so that I may settle.

<sup>21</sup> Then you will say within yourself: Who fathered these for me? I was deprived of my children and barren, exiled and wandering--but who brought them up? See, I was left by myself--but these, where did they come from?"

<sup>22</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, I will lift up My hand to the nations, and raise My banner to the peoples. They will bring your sons in their arms, and

your daughters will be carried on their shoulders.

<sup>23</sup> Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down to you with their faces to the ground, and lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who put their hope in Me will not be put to shame.

<sup>24</sup> Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of the righteous be delivered?

<sup>25</sup> For this is what the LORD says: "Even the captives of a mighty man will be taken, and the prey of a tyrant will be delivered; I will contend with the one who contends with you, and I will save your children.

<sup>26</sup> I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they will be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. Then all flesh will know that I, the LORD,



am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

**50** <sup>1</sup> This is what the LORD says: Where is your mother's divorce certificate that I used to send her away? Or who were My creditors that I sold you to? Look, you were sold for your iniquities, and your mother was put away because of your transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Why was no one there when I came? Why was there no one to answer when I called? Is My hand too short to redeem? Or do I have no power to deliver? Look, I dry up the sea by My rebuke; I turn the rivers into a wilderness; their fish rot because of lack of water and die of thirst.

<sup>3</sup> I dress the heavens in black and make sackcloth their clothing.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of those who are instructed to know how to sustain the weary with a

word. He awakens Me each morning;  
He awakens My ear to listen like those  
being instructed.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened My ear, and  
I was not rebellious; I did not turn back.

<sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who beat Me,  
and My cheeks to those who tore out  
My beard. I did not hide My face from  
scorn and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD will help Me; therefore  
I have not been humiliated; therefore I  
have set My face like flint, and I know I  
will not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup> The One who justifies Me is near; who  
will contend with Me? Let us confront  
each other. Who has a case against Me?  
Let him come near Me!

<sup>9</sup> In truth, the Lord GOD will help  
Me; who is he who will condemn Me?  
Indeed, all of them will wear out like a  
garment; a moth will devour them.

<sup>10</sup> Who among you fears the LORD,  
listening to the voice of His servant?  
Who among you walks in darkness, and  
has no light? Let him trust in the name  
of the LORD; let him lean on his God.

<sup>11</sup> Look, all you who kindle a fire, who  
encircle yourselves with firebrands;  
walk in the light of your fire and in the  
firebrands you have lit! This is what  
you'll get from My hand: you will lie  
down in a place of 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 cut, and to the quarry from which  
you were dug.

<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father, and to  
Sarah who gave birth to you in pain.  
When I called him, he was only one; I  
blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD will comfort Zion; He  
will comfort all her waste places, and He

will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and melodious song.

<sup>4</sup> Pay attention to Me, My people, and listen to Me, My nation; for instruction will come from Me, and My justice for a light to the nations. I will bring it about quickly.

<sup>5</sup> My righteousness is near, My salvation appears, and My arms will bring justice to the nations. The coastlands will put their hope in Me, and they will look to My strength.

<sup>6</sup> Look up to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die in like manner. But My salvation will last forever, and My righteousness will never be shattered.

<sup>7</sup> Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My instruction: do not fear disgrace by men, and do not be shattered by their taunts.

<sup>8</sup> For the moth will devour them like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool. But My righteousness will last forever, and My salvation for all generations.

<sup>9</sup> Wake up, wake up! Put on the strength of the LORD's power. Wake up as in days past, as in generations of long ago. Wasn't it You who hacked Rahab to pieces, who pierced the sea monster?

<sup>10</sup> Wasn't it You who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the sea-bed into a road for the redeemed to pass over?

<sup>11</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD will return and come to Zion with singing, crowned with unending joy. Joy and

gladness will overtake them , and sorrow and sighing will flee.

<sup>12</sup> I--I am the One who comforts you. Who are you that you should fear man who dies, or a son of man who is given up like grass?

<sup>13</sup> But you have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth. You are in constant dread all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, who has set himself to destroy. But where is the fury of the oppressor?

<sup>14</sup> The prisoner is soon to be set free; he will not die and go to the Pit, and his food will not be lacking.

<sup>15</sup> For I am the LORD your God who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar--His name is Yahweh of Hosts.

<sup>16</sup> I have put My words in your mouth, and covered you in the shadow of My

hand, in order to plant the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, "You are My people."

<sup>17</sup> Wake yourself, wake yourself up! Stand up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk the cup of His fury from the hand of the LORD; you who have drunk the goblet to the dregs--the cup that causes people to stagger.

<sup>18</sup> There is no one to guide her among all the children she has raised; there is no one to take hold of her hand among all the offspring she has brought up.

<sup>19</sup> These two things have happened to you: devastation and destruction, famine and sword. Who will grieve for you? How can I comfort you?

<sup>20</sup> Your children have fainted; they lie at the head of every street like an antelope in a net. They are full of the LORD's fury, the rebuke of your God.

<sup>21</sup> So listen to this, afflicted and drunken one--but not with wine.

<sup>22</sup> This is what your Lord says--Yahweh, even your God, who defends His people--"Look, I have removed the cup of staggering from your hand; that goblet, the cup of My fury. You will never drink it again.

<sup>23</sup> I will put it into the hands of your tormenters, who said to you: Lie down, so we can walk over you. You made your back like the ground, and like a street for those who walk on it.

**52** <sup>1</sup> "Wake up, wake up; put on your strength, Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the Holy City! For the uncircumcised and the unclean will no longer enter you.

<sup>2</sup> Stand up, shake the dust off yourself! Take your seat, Jerusalem. Remove the bonds from your neck, captive Daughter Zion."



<sup>3</sup> For this is what the LORD says: "You were sold for nothing, and you will be redeemed without silver."

<sup>4</sup> For this is what the Lord GOD says: "At first My people went down to Egypt to live there, then Assyria oppressed them without cause.

<sup>5</sup> So now what have I here"--the LORD's declaration--"that My people are taken away for nothing? Its rulers wail"--the LORD's declaration--"and My name is continually blasphemed all day long.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore My people will know My name; therefore they will know on that day that I am He who says: Here I am."

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, who proclaims peace, who brings news of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

<sup>8</sup> The voices of your watchmen--they lift up their voices, shouting for joy

together; for every eye will see when the LORD returns to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Be joyful, rejoice together, you ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has displayed His holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

<sup>11</sup> Leave, leave, go out from there! Do not touch anything unclean; go out from her, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> For you will not leave in a hurry, and you will not have to take flight; because the LORD is going before you, and the God of Israel is your rear guard.

<sup>13</sup> See, My servant will act wisely; He will be raised and lifted up and greatly exalted.

<sup>14</sup> Just as many were appalled at You--His appearance was so disfigured

that He did not look like a man, and His form did not resemble a human being--

<sup>15</sup> so He will sprinkle many nations.

Kings will shut their mouths because of Him, For they will see what had not been told them, and they will understand what they had not heard.

**53** <sup>1</sup> Who has believed what we have heard? And who has the arm of the LORD been revealed to?

<sup>2</sup> He grew up before Him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or splendor that we should look at Him, no appearance that we should desire Him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like one people turned away from; He was despised, and we didn't value Him.

<sup>4</sup> Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn

regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds.

<sup>6</sup> We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, He did not open His mouth.

<sup>8</sup> He was taken away because of oppression and judgment; and who considered His fate? For He was cut off from the land of the living; He was struck because of My people's rebellion.

<sup>9</sup> They made His grave with the wicked, and with a rich man at His death, although He had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully.

<sup>10</sup> Yet the LORD was pleased to crush Him, and He made Him sick. When You make Him a restitution offering, He will see His seed, He will prolong His days, and the will of the LORD will succeed by His hand.

<sup>11</sup> He will see it out of His anguish, and He will be satisfied with His knowledge. My righteous servant will justify many, and He will carry their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion, and He will receive the mighty as spoil, because He submitted Himself to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet He bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

**54** <sup>1</sup> "Rejoice, barren one, who did not give birth; burst into song

and shout, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the forsaken one will be more than the children of the married woman," says the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> "Enlarge the site of your tent, and let your tent curtains be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your ropes, and drive your pegs deep.

<sup>3</sup> For you will spread out to the right and to the left, and your descendants will dispossess nations and inhabit the desolate cities.

<sup>4</sup> "Do not be afraid, for you will not be put to shame; don't be humiliated, for you will not be disgraced. For you will forget the shame of your youth, and you will no longer remember the disgrace of your widowhood.

<sup>5</sup> For your husband is your Maker--His name is Yahweh of Hosts--and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD has called you, like a wife deserted and wounded in spirit, a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," says your God.

<sup>7</sup> "I deserted you for a brief moment, but I will take you back with great compassion.

<sup>8</sup> In a surge of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, but I will have compassion on you with everlasting love," says the LORD your Redeemer.

<sup>9</sup> "For this is like the days of Noah to Me: when I swore that the waters of Noah would never flood the earth again, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you or rebuke you.

<sup>10</sup> Though the mountains move and the hills shake, My love will not be removed from you and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says your compassionate LORD.

<sup>11</sup> "Poor Jerusalem , storm-tossed, and not comforted, I will set your stones in black mortar, and lay your foundations in sapphires.

<sup>12</sup> I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling stones, and all your walls of precious stones.

<sup>13</sup> Then all your children will be taught by the LORD, their prosperity will be great,

<sup>14</sup> and you will be established on a foundation of righteousness. You will be far from oppression, you will certainly not be afraid; you will be far from terror, it will certainly not come near you.

<sup>15</sup> If anyone attacks you, it is not from Me; whoever attacks you will fall before you.

<sup>16</sup> Look, I have created the craftsman who blows on the charcoal fire and produces a weapon suitable for its task;



and I have created the destroyer to work havoc.

<sup>17</sup> No weapon formed against you will succeed, and you will refute any accusation raised against you in court. This is the heritage of the LORD's servants, and their righteousness is from Me." This is the LORD's declaration.

**55** <sup>1</sup> "Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost!

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend money on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and you will enjoy the choicest of foods.

<sup>3</sup> Pay attention and come to Me; listen, so that you will live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the promises assured to David.

<sup>4</sup> Since I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples,

<sup>5</sup> so you will summon a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you will run to you. For the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel, has glorified you."

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while He may be found; call to Him while He is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked one abandon his way, and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will freely forgive.

<sup>8</sup> "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>9</sup> "For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> For just as rain and snow fall from heaven, and do not return there without saturating the earth, and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat,

<sup>11</sup> so My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and will prosper in what I send it to do ."

<sup>12</sup> You will indeed go out with joy and be peacefully guided; the mountains and the hills will break into singing before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush, a cypress will come up, and instead of the brier, a myrtle will come up; it will make a name for the LORD as an everlasting sign that will not be destroyed.

**56** <sup>1</sup> This is what the LORD says:  
Preserve justice and do what is

right, for My salvation is coming soon, and My righteousness will be revealed.

<sup>2</sup> Happy is the man who does this, anyone who maintains this, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.

<sup>3</sup> No foreigner who has converted to the LORD should say, "The LORD will exclude me from His people"; and the eunuch should not say, "Look, I am a dried-up tree."

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD says this: "For the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold firmly to My covenant,

<sup>5</sup> I will give them, in My house and within My walls, a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters. I will give each of them an everlasting name that will never be cut off.

<sup>6</sup> And the foreigners who convert to the LORD, minister to Him, love the LORD's

name, and are His servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it, and who hold firmly to My covenant--

<sup>7</sup> I will bring them to My holy mountain and let them rejoice in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar, for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

<sup>8</sup> This is the declaration of the Lord GOD, who gathers the dispersed of Israel: "I will gather to them still others besides those already gathered."

<sup>9</sup> All you animals of the field and forest, come and eat!

<sup>10</sup> Israel's watchmen are blind, all of them, they know nothing; all of them are mute dogs, they cannot bark; they dream, lie down, and love to sleep.

<sup>11</sup> These dogs have fierce appetites; they never have enough. And they are shepherds who have no discernment; all

of them turn to their own way, every last one for his own gain.

<sup>12</sup> "Come, let me get some wine, let's guzzle some beer; and tomorrow will be like today, only far better!"

**57** <sup>1</sup> The righteous one perishes, and no one takes it to heart; faithful men are swept away, with no one realizing that the righteous one is swept away from the presence of evil.

<sup>2</sup> He will enter into peace--they will rest on their beds--everyone who lives uprightly.

<sup>3</sup> But come here, you sons of a sorceress, offspring of an adulterer and a prostitute!

<sup>4</sup> Who is it you are mocking? Who is it you are opening your mouth and sticking out your tongue at? Isn't it you, you rebellious children, you race of liars,

<sup>5</sup> who burn with lust among the oaks, under every flourishing tree, who

slaughter children in the wadis below  
the clefts of the rocks?

<sup>6</sup> Your portion is among the smooth  
stones of the wadi; indeed, they are your  
lot. You have even poured out a drink  
offering to them; you have offered a  
grain offering; should I be satisfied with  
these?

<sup>7</sup> You have placed your bed on a high  
and lofty mountain; you also went up  
there to offer sacrifice.

<sup>8</sup> You have set up your memorial behind  
the door and doorpost. For away from  
Me, you stripped, went up, and made  
your bed wide, and you have made a  
bargain for yourself with them. You have  
loved their bed; you have gazed on their  
genitals.

<sup>9</sup> You went to the king with oil and  
multiplied your perfumes; you sent your  
envoys far away and sent them down  
even to Sheol.

<sup>10</sup> You became weary on your many journeys, but you did not say, "I give up!" You found a renewal of your strength; therefore you did not grow weak.

<sup>11</sup> Who was it you dreaded and feared, so that you lied and didn't remember Me or take it to heart? Have I not kept silent for such a long time and you do not fear Me?

<sup>12</sup> I will expose your righteousness, and your works--they will not profit you.

<sup>13</sup> When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you! The wind will carry all of them off, a breath will take them away. But whoever takes refuge in Me will inherit the land and possess My holy mountain.

<sup>14</sup> He said, "Build it up, build it up, prepare the way, remove every obstacle from My people's way."

<sup>15</sup> For the High and Exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy says



this: "I live in a high and holy place, and with the oppressed and lowly of spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and revive the heart of the oppressed.

<sup>16</sup> For I will not accuse you forever, and I will not always be angry; for then the spirit would grow weak before Me, even the breath of man, which I have made.

<sup>17</sup> Because of his sinful greed I was angry, so I struck him; I was angry and hid; but he went on turning back to the desires of his heart.

<sup>18</sup> I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and comfort him and his mourners,

<sup>19</sup> creating words of praise." The LORD says, "Peace, peace to the one who is far or near, and I will heal him.

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked are like the storm-tossed sea, for it cannot be still, and its waters churn up mire and muck.

<sup>21</sup> There is no peace for the wicked," says my God.

**58** <sup>1</sup> "Cry out loudly, don't hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet. Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> They seek Me day after day and delight to know My ways, like a nation that does what is right and does not abandon the justice of their God. They ask Me for righteous judgments; they delight in the nearness of God."

<sup>3</sup> "Why have we fasted, but You have not seen? We have denied ourselves, but You haven't noticed!" "Look, you do as you please on the day of your fast, and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast with contention and strife to strike viciously with your fist. You cannot fast as you do today, hoping to make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Will the fast I choose be like this: A day for a person to deny himself, to bow his head like a reed, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast and a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Isn't the fast I choose: To break the chains of wickedness, to untie the ropes of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and to tear off every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor and homeless into your house, to clothe the naked when you see him, and to not ignore your own flesh and blood ?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light will appear like the dawn, and your recovery will come quickly. Your righteousness will go before you, and the LORD's glory will be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> At that time, when you call, the LORD will answer; when you cry out, He will say: Here I am. If you get rid of

the yoke from those around you, the finger-pointing and malicious speaking,  
<sup>10</sup> and if you offer yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted one, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will always lead you, satisfy you in a parched land, and strengthen your bones. You will be like a watered garden and like a spring whose waters never run dry.

<sup>12</sup> Some of you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will restore the foundations laid long ago; you will be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of streets where people live.

<sup>13</sup> "If you keep from desecrating the Sabbath, from doing whatever you want on My holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight, and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your

own ways, seeking your own pleasure, or talking too much;

<sup>14</sup> then you will delight yourself in the LORD, and I will make you ride over the heights of the land, and let you enjoy the heritage of your father Jacob." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

**59** <sup>1</sup> Indeed, the LORD's hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear.

<sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen.

<sup>3</sup> For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, and you mutter injustice.

<sup>4</sup> No one makes claims justly; no one pleads honestly. They trust in empty and worthless words; they conceive trouble and give birth to iniquity.

<sup>5</sup> They hatch viper's eggs and weave spider's webs. Whoever eats their eggs will die; crack one open, and a viper is hatched.

<sup>6</sup> Their webs cannot become clothing, and they cannot cover themselves with their works. Their works are sinful works, and violent acts are in their hands.

<sup>7</sup> Their feet run after evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are sinful thoughts; ruin and wretchedness are in their paths.

<sup>8</sup> They have not known the path of peace, and there is no justice in their ways. They have made their roads crooked; no one who walks on them will know peace.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We hope for light, but there is darkness; for brightness, but we live in the night.

<sup>10</sup> We grope along a wall like the blind; we grope like those without eyes. We stumble at noon as though it were twilight; we are like the dead among those who are healthy.

<sup>11</sup> We all growl like bears 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 have multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us. For our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:

<sup>13</sup> transgression and deception against the LORD, turning away from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering lying words from the heart.

<sup>14</sup> Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far off. For truth has stumbled in the public square, and honesty cannot enter.

<sup>15</sup> Truth is missing, and whoever turns from evil is plundered. The LORD saw that there was no justice, and He was offended.

<sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no man--He was amazed that there was no one interceding; so His own arm brought salvation, and His own righteousness supported Him.

<sup>17</sup> He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and He wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak.

<sup>18</sup> Thus He will repay according to their deeds: fury to His enemies, retribution to His foes, and He will repay the coastlands.

<sup>19</sup> They will fear the name of the LORD in the west, and His glory in the east; for He will come like a rushing stream driven by the wind of the LORD.



<sup>20</sup> The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those in Jacob who turn from transgression. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>21</sup> "As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit who is on you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouth of your children, or from the mouth of your children's children, from now on and forever," says the LORD.

**60** <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you.

<sup>2</sup> For look, darkness covers the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the LORD will shine over you, and His glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your radiance.

<sup>4</sup> Raise your eyes and look around: they all gather and come to you; your sons will come from far away, and your daughters will be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will tremble and rejoice, because the riches of the sea will become yours, and the wealth of the nations will come to you.

<sup>6</sup> Caravans of camels will cover your land--young camels of Midian and Ephah--all of them will come from Sheba. They will carry gold and frankincense and proclaim the praises of the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth will serve you and go up on My altar as an acceptable sacrifice . I will glorify My beautiful house.

<sup>8</sup> Who are these who fly like a cloud, like doves to their shelters?

<sup>9</sup> Yes, the islands will wait for Me with the ships of Tarshish in the lead, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

<sup>10</sup> Foreigners will build up your walls, and their kings will serve you. Although I struck you in My wrath, yet I will show mercy to you with My favor.

<sup>11</sup> Your gates will always be open; they will never be shut day or night so that the wealth of the nations may be brought into you, with their kings being led in procession .

<sup>12</sup> For the nation and the kingdom that will not serve you will perish; those nations will be annihilated.

<sup>13</sup> The glory of Lebanon will come to you--its pine, fir, and cypress together--to beautify the place of My sanctuary, and I will glorify My dwelling place.

<sup>14</sup> The sons of your oppressors will come and bow down to you; all who reviled you will fall down on their faces at your feet. They will call you the City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> Instead of your being deserted and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you an object of eternal pride, a joy from age to age.

<sup>16</sup> You will nurse on the milk of nations, and nurse at the breast of kings; you will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

<sup>17</sup> I will bring gold instead of bronze; I will bring silver instead of iron, bronze instead of wood, and iron instead of stones. I will appoint peace as your guard and righteousness as your ruler.

<sup>18</sup> Violence will never again be heard of in your land; devastation and destruction will be gone from your borders. But you

will name your walls salvation, and your gates praise.

<sup>19</sup> The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor.

<sup>20</sup> Your sun will no longer set, and your moon will not fade; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your sorrow will be over.

<sup>21</sup> Then all your people will be righteous; they will possess the land forever; they are the branch I planted, the work of My hands, so that I may be glorified.

<sup>22</sup> The least will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; I will accomplish it quickly in its time.

**61** <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has

anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn,

<sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the LORD, to glorify Him.

<sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore the former devastations; they will renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>5</sup> Strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and foreigners will be your plowmen and vinedressers.

<sup>6</sup> But you will be called the LORD's priests; they will speak of you as ministers of our God; you will eat the wealth of the nations, and you will boast in their riches.

<sup>7</sup> Because your shame was double, and they cried out, "Disgrace is their portion," therefore, they will possess double in their land, and eternal joy will be theirs.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and injustice; I will faithfully reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants will be known among the nations, and their posterity among the peoples. All who see them will recognize that they are a people the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I greatly rejoice in the LORD, I exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation and wrapped

me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom wears a turban and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its growth, and as a garden enables what is sown to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**62** <sup>1</sup> I will not keep silent because of Zion, and I will not keep still because of Jerusalem until her righteousness shines like a bright light, and her salvation like a flaming torch.

<sup>2</sup> Nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You will be called by a new name that the LORD's mouth will announce.

<sup>3</sup> You will be a glorious crown in the LORD's hand, and a royal diadem in the palm of your God.

<sup>4</sup> You will no longer be called Deserted, and your land will not be called Desolate;



instead, you will be called My Delight is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land will be married.

<sup>5</sup> For as a young man marries a virgin, so your sons will marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so your God will rejoice over you.

<sup>6</sup> Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen on your walls; they will never be silent, day or night. You, who remind the LORD, no rest for you!

<sup>7</sup> Do not give Him rest until He establishes and makes her Jerusalem the praise of the earth.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD has sworn with His right hand and His strong arm: I will no longer give your grain to your enemies for food, and foreigners will not drink your new wine you have labored for.

<sup>9</sup> For those who gather grain will eat it and praise the LORD, and those who

harvest the grapes will drink the wine in  
My holy courts.

<sup>10</sup> Go out, go out through the gates;  
prepare a way for the people! Build it  
up, build up the highway; clear away the  
stones! Raise a banner for the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> Look, the LORD has proclaimed to  
the end of the earth, "Say to Daughter  
Zion: Look, your salvation is coming, His  
reward is with Him, and His recompense  
is before Him."

<sup>12</sup> And they will be called the Holy  
People, the LORD's Redeemed; and  
you will be called Cared For, A City Not  
Deserted.

**63** <sup>1</sup> Who is this coming from Edom  
in crimson-stained garments from  
Bozrah--this One who is splendid in His  
apparel, rising up proudly in His great  
might? It is I, proclaiming vindication,  
powerful to save.

<sup>2</sup> Why is Your clothing red, and  
Your garments like one who treads a  
winepress?

<sup>3</sup> I trampled the winepress alone, and  
no one from the nations was with Me. I  
trampled them in My anger and ground  
them underfoot in My fury; their blood  
spattered My garments, and all My  
clothes were stained.

<sup>4</sup> For I planned the day of vengeance,  
and the year of My redemption came.

<sup>5</sup> I looked, but there was no one to help,  
and I was amazed that no one assisted;  
so My arm accomplished victory for Me,  
and My wrath assisted Me.

<sup>6</sup> I crushed nations in My anger; I made  
them drunk with My wrath and poured  
out their blood on the ground.

<sup>7</sup> I will make known the LORD's faithful  
love and the LORD's praiseworthy acts,  
because of all the LORD has done for  
us--even the many good things He has

done for the house of Israel and has done for them based on His compassions and the abundance of His faithful love.

<sup>8</sup> He said, "They are indeed My people, children who will not be disloyal," and He became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup> In all their suffering, He suffered, and the Angel of His Presence saved them. He redeemed them because of His love and compassion; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of the past.

<sup>10</sup> But they rebelled, and grieved His Holy Spirit. So He became their enemy and fought against them.

<sup>11</sup> Then He remembered the days of the past, the days 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 His Holy Spirit among the flock?

<sup>12</sup> He sent His glorious arm at Moses' right hand, divided the waters before them to obtain eternal fame for Himself,

<sup>13</sup> and led them through the depths like a horse in the wilderness, so that they did not stumble.

<sup>14</sup> Like cattle that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. You led Your people this way to make a glorious name for Yourself.

<sup>15</sup> Look down from heaven and see from Your lofty home--holy and beautiful. Where is Your zeal and Your might? Your yearning and Your compassion are withheld from me.

<sup>16</sup> Yet You are our Father, even though Abraham does not know us and Israel doesn't recognize us. You, LORD, are our Father; from ancient times, Your name is our Redeemer.

<sup>17</sup> Why, LORD, do You make us stray from Your ways? You harden our hearts

so we do not fear You. Return, because of Your servants, the tribes of Your heritage.

<sup>18</sup> Your holy people had a possession for a little while, but our enemies have trampled down Your sanctuary.

<sup>19</sup> We have become like those You never ruled over, like those not called by Your name.

**64** <sup>1</sup> If only You would tear the heavens open and come down, so that mountains would quake at Your presence--

<sup>2</sup> as fire kindles the brushwood, and fire causes water to boil--to make Your name known to Your enemies, so that nations will tremble at Your presence!

<sup>3</sup> When You did awesome deeds that we did not expect, You came down, and the mountains quaked at Your presence.

<sup>4</sup> From ancient times no one has heard, no one has listened, no eye has seen any

God except You, who acts on behalf of the one who waits for Him.

<sup>5</sup> You welcome the one who joyfully does what is right; they remember You in Your ways. But we have sinned, and You were angry; we will remain in Your ways and be saved.

<sup>6</sup> All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a polluted garment; all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.

<sup>7</sup> No one calls on Your name, striving to take hold of You. For You have hidden Your face from us and made us melt because of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup> Yet LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we all are the work of Your hands.

<sup>9</sup> LORD, do not be terribly angry or remember our iniquity forever. Please look--all of us are 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 temple, where our fathers praised You, has been burned with fire, and all that was dear to us lies in ruins.

<sup>12</sup> LORD, after all this, will You restrain Yourself? Will You keep silent and afflict severely?

**65** <sup>1</sup> "I was sought by those who did not ask; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said: Here I am, here I am, to a nation that was not called by My name.

<sup>2</sup> I spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people who walk in the wrong path, following their own thoughts.

<sup>3</sup> These people continually provoke Me to My face, sacrificing in gardens, burning incense on bricks,



<sup>4</sup> sitting among the graves, spending nights in secret places, eating swine's flesh, and putting polluted broth in their bowls.

<sup>5</sup> They say: Keep to yourself, don't come near me, for I am too holy for you! These practices are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.

<sup>6</sup> It is written before Me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will repay them fully

<sup>7</sup> for your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together," says the LORD. "Because they burned incense on the mountains and reproached Me on the hills, I will reward them fully for their former deeds."

<sup>8</sup> The LORD says this: As the new wine is found in a bunch of grapes, and one says: Don't destroy it, for there's some good in it, so I will act because of My servants and not destroy them all.

<sup>9</sup> I will produce descendants from Jacob, and heirs to My mountains from Judah; My chosen ones will possess it, and My servants will dwell there.

<sup>10</sup> Sharon will be a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for cattle to lie down, for My people who have sought Me.

<sup>11</sup> But you who abandon the LORD, who forget My holy mountain, who prepare a table for Fortune and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny,

<sup>12</sup> I will destine you for the sword, and all of you will kneel down to be slaughtered, because I called and you did not answer, I spoke and you did not hear; you did what was evil in My sight and chose what I did not delight in.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: My servants will eat, but you will be hungry; My servants will drink, but you

will be thirsty; My servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame.

<sup>14</sup> My servants will shout for joy from a glad heart, but you will cry out from an anguished heart, and you will lament out of a broken spirit.

<sup>15</sup> You will leave your name behind as a curse for My chosen ones, and the Lord GOD will kill you; but He will give His servants another name.

<sup>16</sup> Whoever is blessed in the land will be blessed by the God of truth, and whoever swears in the land will swear by the God of truth. For the former troubles will be forgotten and hidden from My sight.

<sup>17</sup> "For I will create a new heaven and a new earth; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind.

<sup>18</sup> Then be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I will create

Jerusalem to be a joy, and its people to be a delight.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people. The sound of weeping and crying will no longer be heard in her.

<sup>20</sup> In her, a nursing infant will no longer live only a few days, or an old man not live out his days. Indeed, the youth will die at a hundred years, and the one who misses a hundred years will be cursed.

<sup>21</sup> People will build houses and live in them ; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> They will not build and others live in them ; they will not plant and others eat. For My people's lives will be like the lifetime of a tree. My chosen ones will fully enjoy the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They will not labor without success or bear children destined for disaster, for they will be a people blessed by the LORD along with their descendants.

<sup>24</sup> Even before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but the serpent's food will be dust! They will not do what is evil or destroy on My entire holy mountain," says the LORD.

**66** <sup>1</sup> This is what the LORD says: Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house could you possibly build for Me? And what place could be My home?

<sup>2</sup> My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being. This is the LORD's declaration. I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and who trembles at My word.

<sup>3</sup> One slaughters an ox, one kills a man; one sacrifices a lamb, one breaks a dog's neck; one offers a grain offering,

one offers swine's blood; one offers incense, one praises an idol--all these have chosen their ways and delight in their abominations.

<sup>4</sup> So I will choose their punishment, and I will bring on them what they dread, because I called and no one answered; I spoke and they didn't hear; they did what is evil in My sight and chose what I didn't delight in.

<sup>5</sup> You who tremble at His word, hear the word of the LORD: "Your brothers who hate and exclude you because of Me have said: Let the LORD be glorified, so that we can see your joy! But they will be put to shame."

<sup>6</sup> A sound of uproar from the city! A voice from the temple--the voice of the LORD, paying back His enemies what they deserve!

<sup>7</sup> Before Zion was in labor, she gave birth; before she was in pain, she delivered a boy.

<sup>8</sup> Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day, or a nation be delivered in an instant? Yet as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her sons.

<sup>9</sup> "Will I bring a baby to the point of birth and not deliver it?" says the LORD; "or will I who deliver, close the womb?" says your God.

<sup>10</sup> Be glad for Jerusalem and rejoice over her, all who love her. Rejoice greatly with her, all who mourn over her--

<sup>11</sup> so that you may nurse and be satisfied from her comforting breast and drink deeply and delight yourselves from her glorious breasts.

<sup>12</sup> For this is what the LORD says: I will make peace flow to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flood; you

will nurse and be carried on her hip, and bounced on her lap.

<sup>13</sup> As a mother comforts her son, so I will comfort you, and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> You will see, you will rejoice, and you will flourish like grass; then the LORD's power will be revealed to His servants, but He will show His wrath against His enemies.

<sup>15</sup> Look, the LORD will come with fire--His chariots are like the whirlwind--to execute His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire.

<sup>16</sup> For the LORD will execute judgment on all flesh with His fiery sword, and many will be slain by the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> "Those who dedicate and purify themselves to enter the groves following their leader, eating meat from pigs, vermin, and rats, will perish together." This is the LORD's declaration.



<sup>18</sup> "Knowing their works and their thoughts, I have come to gather all nations and languages; they will come and see My glory.

<sup>19</sup> I will establish a sign among them, and I will send survivors from them to the nations--to Tarshish, Put, Lud (who are archers), Tubal, Javan, and the islands far away--who have not heard of My fame or seen My glory. And they will proclaim My glory among the nations.

<sup>20</sup> They will bring all your brothers from all the nations as a gift to the LORD on horses and chariots, in litters, and on mules and camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring an offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> I will also take some of them as priests and Levites," says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> "For just as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will endure

before Me"--the LORD's declaration--"so will your offspring and your name endure.

<sup>23</sup> All mankind will come to worship Me, from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another," says the LORD.

<sup>24</sup> "As they leave, they will see the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against Me; for their maggots will never die, their fire will never go out, and they will be a horror to all mankind."

# Jeremiah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests living in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.

<sup>2</sup> The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah.

<sup>3</sup> It also came throughout the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah, king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>5</sup> I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

<sup>6</sup> But I protested, "Oh no, Lord GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth."

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said to me: Do not say: I am only a youth, for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to deliver you. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and told me: Look, I have filled your mouth with My words.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I have set you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant.

<sup>11</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, asking, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I replied, "I see a branch of an almond tree."

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I watch over My word to accomplish it."

<sup>13</sup> Again the word of the LORD came to me inquiring, "What do you see?" And I replied, "I see a boiling pot, its mouth tilted from the north to the south ."

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Disaster will be poured out from the north on all who live in the land.

<sup>15</sup> Indeed, I am about to summon all the clans and kingdoms of the north." This is the LORD's declaration. They will come, and each king will set up his throne at the entrance to Jerusalem's gates. They will attack all her surrounding walls and all the other cities of Judah.

<sup>16</sup> "I will pronounce My judgments against them for all the evil they did when they abandoned Me to burn incense to other gods and to worship the works of their own hands.

<sup>17</sup> "Now, get ready. Stand up and tell them everything that I command you. Do not be intimidated by them or I will cause you to cower before them.

<sup>18</sup> Today, I am the One who has made you a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land-- against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the population.

<sup>19</sup> They will fight against you but never prevail over you, since I am with you to rescue you." This is the LORD's declaration.

**2** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:  
<sup>2</sup> "Go and announce directly to Jerusalem that this is what the LORD says: I remember the loyalty 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

found themselves guilty; disaster came on them." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>4</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, house of Jacob and all families of the house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> Here is what the LORD says: What fault did your fathers find in Me that they went so far from Me, followed worthless idols, and became worthless themselves?

<sup>6</sup> They stopped asking: Where is the LORD who brought us from the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, through a land of drought and darkness, a land no one traveled through and where no one lived?

<sup>7</sup> I brought you to a fertile land to eat its fruit and bounty, but after you entered, you defiled My land; you made My inheritance detestable.

<sup>8</sup> The priests quit asking: Where is the LORD? The experts in the law no longer knew Me, and the rulers rebelled against Me. The prophets prophesied by Baal and followed useless idols.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, I will bring a case against you again. This is the LORD's declaration. I will bring a case against your children's children.

<sup>10</sup> Cross over to Cyprus and take a look. Send someone to Kedar and consider carefully; see if there has ever been anything like this:

<sup>11</sup> Has a nation ever exchanged its gods? (but they were not gods!) Yet My people have exchanged their Glory for useless idols.

<sup>12</sup> Be horrified at this, heavens; be shocked and utterly appalled. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>13</sup> For My people have committed a double evil: They have abandoned Me,



the fountain of living water, and dug cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.

<sup>14</sup> Is Israel a slave? Was he born into slavery? Why else has he become a prey?

<sup>15</sup> The young lions have roared at him; they have roared loudly. They have laid waste his land. His cities are in ruins, without inhabitants.

<sup>16</sup> The men of Memphis and Tahpanhes have also broken your skull.

<sup>17</sup> Have you not brought this on yourself by abandoning the LORD your God while He was leading you along the way?

<sup>18</sup> Now what will you gain by traveling along the way to Egypt to drink the waters of the Nile? What will you gain by traveling along the way to Assyria to drink the waters of the Euphrates?

<sup>19</sup> Your own evil will discipline you; your own apostasies will reprimand you.

Think it over and see how evil and bitter it is for you to abandon the LORD your God and to have no fear of Me. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD of Hosts.

<sup>20</sup> For long ago I broke your yoke; I tore off your fetters. You insisted: I will not serve! On every high hill and under every leafy tree you lie down like a prostitute.

<sup>21</sup> I planted you, a choice vine from the very best seed. How then could you turn into a degenerate, foreign vine?

<sup>22</sup> Even if you wash with lye and use a great amount of soap, the stain of your guilt is still in front of Me. This is the Lord GOD's declaration.

<sup>23</sup> How can you protest: I am not defiled; I have not followed the Baals? Look at your behavior in the valley; acknowledge what you have done. You are a swift young camel twisting and turning on her way,

<sup>24</sup> a wild donkey at home in the wilderness. She sniffs the wind in the heat of her desire. Who can control her passion? All who look for her will not become tired; they will find her in her mating season.

<sup>25</sup> Keep your feet from going bare and your throat from thirst. But you say: It's hopeless; I love strangers, and I will continue to follow them.

<sup>26</sup> Like the shame of a thief when he is caught, so the house of Israel has been put to shame. They, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets

<sup>27</sup> say to a tree: You are my father, and to a stone: You gave birth to me. For they have turned their back to Me and not their face, but in their time of disaster they beg: Rise up and save us!

<sup>28</sup> But where are your gods you made for yourself? Let them rise up and save you in your time of disaster if they can,

for your gods are as numerous as your cities, Judah.

<sup>29</sup> Why do you bring a case against Me? All of you have rebelled against Me. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>30</sup> I have struck down your children in vain; they would not accept discipline. Your own sword has devoured your prophets like a ravaging lion.

<sup>31</sup> Evil generation, pay attention to the word of the LORD! Have I been a wilderness to Israel or a land of dense darkness? Why do My people claim: We will go where we want; we will no longer come to You?

<sup>32</sup> Can a young woman forget her jewelry or a bride her wedding sash? Yet My people have forgotten Me for countless days.

<sup>33</sup> How skillfully you pursue love; you also teach evil women your ways.

<sup>34</sup> Moreover, your skirts are stained with the blood of the innocent poor. You did not catch them breaking and entering. But in spite of all these things

<sup>35</sup> you claim: I am innocent. His anger is sure to turn away from me. But I will certainly judge you because you have said: I have not sinned.

<sup>36</sup> How unstable you are, constantly changing your way! You will be put to shame by Egypt just as you were put to shame by Assyria.

<sup>37</sup> Moreover, you will be led out from here with your hands on your head since the LORD has rejected those you trust; you will not succeed even with their help.

**3**<sup>1</sup> If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him to marry another, can he ever return to her? Wouldn't such a land become totally defiled? But you! You have played the prostitute with many

partners--can you return to Me? This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>2</sup> Look to the barren heights and see. Where have you not been immoral? You sat waiting for them beside the highways like a nomad in the desert. You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness.

<sup>3</sup> This is why the showers haven't come--why there has been no spring rain. You have the brazen look of a prostitute and refuse to be ashamed.

<sup>4</sup> Have you not lately called Me: My Father, my youthful companion?

<sup>5</sup> Will He bear a grudge forever? Will He be endlessly infuriated? This is what you have spoken and done, the evil you are capable of.

<sup>6</sup> In the days of King Josiah the LORD asked me, "Have you seen what unfaithful Israel has done? She has ascended every high hill and gone under

every green tree to prostitute herself there.

<sup>7</sup> I thought: After she has done all these things, she will return to Me. But she didn't return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

<sup>8</sup> I observed that it was because unfaithful Israel had committed adultery that I had sent her away and had given her a certificate of divorce. Nevertheless, her treacherous sister Judah was not afraid but also went and prostituted herself.

<sup>9</sup> Indifferent to her prostitution, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and tree.

<sup>10</sup> Yet in spite of all this, her treacherous sister Judah didn't return to Me with all her heart--only in pretense." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD announced to me,  
"Unfaithful Israel has shown herself  
more righteous than treacherous Judah.

<sup>12</sup> Go, proclaim these words to the  
north, and say: Return, unfaithful Israel.  
This is the LORD's declaration. I will  
not look on you with anger, for I am  
unfailing in My love. This is the LORD's  
declaration. I will not be angry forever.

<sup>13</sup> Only acknowledge your guilt--you  
have rebelled against the LORD your  
God. You have scattered your favors to  
strangers under every green tree and  
have not obeyed My voice. This is the  
LORD's declaration.

<sup>14</sup> "Return, you faithless children"--this  
is the LORD's declaration--"for I am your  
master, and I will take you, one from  
a city and two from a family, and I will  
bring you to Zion.



<sup>15</sup> I will give you shepherds who are loyal to Me, and they will shepherd you with knowledge and skill.

<sup>16</sup> When you multiply and increase in the land, in those days"--the LORD's declaration--"no one will say any longer: The ark of the LORD's covenant. It will never come to mind, and no one will remember or miss it. It will never again be made.

<sup>17</sup> At that time Jerusalem will be called, The LORD's Throne, and all the nations will be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD in Jerusalem. They will cease to follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.

<sup>18</sup> In those days the house of Judah will join with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land I have given your ancestors to inherit."

<sup>19</sup> I thought: How I long to make you  
My sons and give you a desirable land,  
the most beautiful inheritance of all the  
nations. I thought: You will call Me, my  
Father, and never turn away from Me.

<sup>20</sup> However, as a woman may betray her  
lover, so you have betrayed Me, house  
of Israel. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>21</sup> A sound is heard on the barren  
heights, the children of Israel weeping  
and begging for mercy, for they have  
perverted their way; they have forgotten  
the LORD their God.

<sup>22</sup> Return, you faithless children. I will  
heal your unfaithfulness. "Here we are,  
coming to You, for You are the LORD our  
God.

<sup>23</sup> Surely, falsehood comes from the  
hills, commotion from the mountains,  
but the salvation of Israel is only in the  
LORD our God.

<sup>24</sup> From the time of our youth the shameful one has consumed what our fathers have worked for--their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.

<sup>25</sup> Let us lie down in our shame; let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the LORD our God, both we and our fathers, from the time of our youth even to this day. We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."

**4** <sup>1</sup> If you return, Israel--this is the LORD's declaration--if you return to Me, if you remove your detestable idols from My presence and do not waver,

<sup>2</sup> if you swear, As the LORD lives, in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then the nations will be blessed by Him and will pride themselves in Him.

<sup>3</sup> For this is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: Break

up the unplowed ground; do not sow among the thorns.

<sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, men of Judah and residents of Jerusalem. Otherwise, My wrath will break out like fire and burn with no one to extinguish it because of your evil deeds.

<sup>5</sup> Declare in Judah, proclaim in Jerusalem, and say: Blow the ram's horn throughout the land. Cry out loudly and say: Assemble yourselves, and let's flee to the fortified cities.

<sup>6</sup> Lift up a signal flag toward Zion. Run for cover! Don't stand still! For I am bringing disaster from the north--a great destruction.

<sup>7</sup> A lion has gone up from his thicket; a destroyer of nations has set out. He has left his lair to make your land a waste. Your cities will be reduced to uninhabited ruins.

<sup>8</sup> Because of this, put on sackcloth; mourn and wail, for the LORD's burning anger has not turned away from us.

<sup>9</sup> "On that day"--this is the LORD's declaration--"the king and the officials will lose their courage. The priests will tremble in fear, and the prophets will be scared speechless."

<sup>10</sup> I said, "Oh no, Lord GOD, You have certainly deceived this people and Jerusalem, by announcing, 'You will have peace,' while a sword is at our throats."

<sup>11</sup> At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, "A searing wind blows from the barren heights in the wilderness on the way to My dear people. It comes not to winnow or to sift;

<sup>12</sup> a wind too strong for this comes at My call. Now I will also pronounce judgments against them."

<sup>13</sup> Look, he advances like clouds; his chariots are like a storm. His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are ruined!

<sup>14</sup> Wash the evil from your heart, Jerusalem, so that you will be delivered. How long will you harbor malicious thoughts within you?

<sup>15</sup> For a voice announces from Dan, proclaiming malice from Mount Ephraim.

<sup>16</sup> Warn the nations: Look! Proclaim to Jerusalem: Those who besiege are coming from a distant land; they raise their voices against the cities of Judah.

<sup>17</sup> They have her surrounded like those who guard a field, because she has rebelled against Me. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>18</sup> Your way of life and your actions have brought this on you. This is your punishment. It is very bitter, because it has reached your heart!

<sup>19</sup> My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in agony! Oh, the pain in my heart! My heart pounds; I cannot be silent. For you, my soul, have heard the sound of the ram's horn--the shout of battle.

<sup>20</sup> Disaster after disaster is reported, for the whole land is destroyed. Suddenly my tents are destroyed, my tent curtains, in a moment.

<sup>21</sup> How long must I see the signal flag and hear the sound of the ram's horn?

<sup>22</sup> For My people are fools; they do not know Me. They are foolish children, without understanding. They are skilled in doing what is evil, but they do not know how to do what is good.

<sup>23</sup> I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty. I looked to the heavens, and their light was gone.

<sup>24</sup> I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills shook.

<sup>25</sup> I looked, and no man was left; all the birds of the sky had fled.

<sup>26</sup> I looked, and the fertile field was a wilderness. All its cities were torn down because of the LORD and His burning anger.

<sup>27</sup> For this is what the LORD says: The whole land will be a desolation, but I will not finish it off.

<sup>28</sup> Because of this, the earth will mourn; the skies above will grow dark. I have spoken; I have planned, and I will not relent or turn back from it.

<sup>29</sup> Every city flees at the sound of the horseman and the archer. They enter the thickets and climb among the rocks. Every city is abandoned; no inhabitant is left.

<sup>30</sup> And you devastated one, what are you doing that you dress yourself in scarlet, that you adorn yourself with gold jewelry, that you enlarge your eyes with



paint? You beautify yourself for nothing. Your lovers reject you; they want to take your life.

<sup>31</sup> I hear a cry like a woman in labor, a cry of anguish like one bearing her first child. The cry of Daughter Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands: Woe is me, for my life is weary because of the murderers!

**5** <sup>1</sup> Roam through the streets of Jerusalem. Look and take note; search in her squares. If you find a single person, anyone who acts justly, who seeks to be faithful, then I will forgive her.

<sup>2</sup> When they say, "As the LORD lives," they are swearing falsely.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, don't Your eyes look for faithfulness? You have struck them, but they felt no pain. You finished them off, but they refused to accept discipline.

They made their faces harder than rock, and they refused to return.

<sup>4</sup> Then I thought: They are just the poor; they have played the fool. For they don't understand the way of the LORD, the justice of their God.

<sup>5</sup> I will go to the powerful and speak to them. Surely they know the way of the LORD, the justice of their God. However, these also had broken the yoke and torn off the fetters.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, a lion from the forest will strike them down. A wolf from an arid plain will ravage them. A leopard keeps watch over their cities. Anyone who leaves them will be torn to pieces because their rebellious acts are many, their unfaithful deeds numerous.

<sup>7</sup> Why should I forgive you? Your children have abandoned Me and sworn by those who are not gods. I satisfied their needs, yet they committed

adultery; they gashed themselves at the prostitute's house.

<sup>8</sup> They are well-fed, eager stallions, each neighing after someone else's wife.

<sup>9</sup> Should I not punish them for these things? This is the LORD's declaration. Should I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?

<sup>10</sup> Go up among her vineyard terraces and destroy them, but do not finish them off. Prune away her shoots, for they do not belong to the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> They, the house of Israel and the house of Judah, have dealt very treacherously with Me. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>12</sup> They have contradicted the LORD and insisted, "It won't happen. Harm won't come to us; we won't see sword or famine."

<sup>13</sup> The prophets become only wind, for the LORD's word is not in them. This will in fact happen to them.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD of Hosts says: Because you have spoken this word, I am going to make My words become fire in your mouth. These people are the wood, and the fire will consume them.

<sup>15</sup> I am about to bring a nation from far away against you, house of Israel. This is the LORD's declaration. It is an established nation, an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know and whose speech you do not understand.

<sup>16</sup> Their quiver is like an open grave; they are all mighty warriors.

<sup>17</sup> They will consume your harvest and your food. They will consume your sons and your daughters. They will consume your flocks and your herds. They will

consume your vines and your fig trees. They will destroy with the sword your fortified cities in which you trust.

<sup>18</sup> "But even in those days"--this is the LORD's declaration--"I will not finish you off.

<sup>19</sup> When people ask: For what offense has the LORD our God done all these things to us? You will respond to them: Just as you abandoned Me and served foreign gods in your land, so will you serve strangers in a land that is not yours.

<sup>20</sup> "Declare this in the house of Jacob; proclaim it in Judah, saying:

<sup>21</sup> Hear this, you foolish and senseless people. They have eyes, but they don't see. They have ears, but they don't hear.

<sup>22</sup> Do you not fear Me? This is the LORD's declaration. Do you not tremble before Me, the One who set the sand as the boundary of the sea, an enduring

barrier that it cannot cross? The waves surge, but they cannot prevail. They roar but cannot pass over it.

<sup>23</sup> But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts. They have turned aside and have gone away.

<sup>24</sup> They have not said to themselves: Let's fear the LORD our God, who gives the rain, both early and late, in its season, who guarantees to us the fixed weeks of the harvest.

<sup>25</sup> Your guilty acts have diverted these things from you . Your sins have withheld My bounty from you,

<sup>26</sup> for wicked men live among My people. They watch like fowls lying in wait. They set a trap; they catch men.

<sup>27</sup> Like a cage full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have grown powerful and rich.

<sup>28</sup> They have become fat and sleek. They have also excelled in evil matters.

They have not taken up cases, such as the case of orphans, so they might prosper, and they have not defended the rights of the needy.

<sup>29</sup> Should I not punish them for these things? This is the LORD's declaration. Should I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?

<sup>30</sup> A horrible, terrible thing has taken place in the land.

<sup>31</sup> The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own authority. My people love it like this. But what will you do at the end of it?

**6** <sup>1</sup> Run for cover, Benjaminites, out of Jerusalem! Sound the ram's horn in Tekoa; raise a smoke signal over Beth-haccherem, for disaster threatens from the north, even great destruction.

<sup>2</sup> Though she is beautiful and delicate, I will destroy Daughter Zion.

<sup>3</sup> Shepherds and their flocks will come against her; they will pitch their tents all around her. Each will pasture his own portion.

<sup>4</sup> Set them apart for war against her; rise up, let's attack at noon. Woe to us, for the day is passing; the evening shadows grow long.

<sup>5</sup> Rise up, let's attack by night. Let us destroy her fortresses."

<sup>6</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts says: Cut down the trees; raise a siege ramp against Jerusalem. This city must be punished. There is nothing but oppression within her.

<sup>7</sup> As a well gushes out its water, so she pours forth her evil. Violence and destruction resound in her. Sickness and wounds keep coming to My attention.

<sup>8</sup> Be warned, Jerusalem, or I will be torn away from you; I will make you a desolation, a land devoid of inhabitant.



<sup>9</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Glean as thoroughly as a vine the remnant of Israel. Pass your hand once more like a grape gatherer over the branches.

<sup>10</sup> Who can I speak to and give such a warning that they will listen? Look, their ear is uncircumcised, so they cannot pay attention. See, the word of the LORD has become contemptible to them--they find no pleasure in it.

<sup>11</sup> But I am full of the LORD's wrath; I am tired of holding it back. Pour it out on the children in the street, on the gang of young men as well. For both husband and wife will be captured, the old with the very old.

<sup>12</sup> Their houses will be turned over to others, their fields and wives as well, for I will stretch out My hand against the residents of the land. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>13</sup> For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is gaining profit unjustly. From prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

<sup>14</sup> They have treated My people's brokenness superficially, claiming: Peace, peace, when there is no peace.

<sup>15</sup> Were they ashamed when they acted so abhorrently? They weren't at all ashamed. They can no longer feel humiliation. Therefore, they will fall among the fallen. When I punish them, they will collapse, says the LORD.

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says: Stand by the roadways and look. Ask about the ancient paths: Which is the way to what is good? Then take it and find rest for yourselves. But they protested: We won't!

<sup>17</sup> I appointed watchmen over you and said: Listen for the sound of the ram's

horn. But they protested: We won't listen!

<sup>18</sup> Therefore listen, you nations and you witnesses, learn what the charge is against them.

<sup>19</sup> Listen, earth! I am about to bring disaster on these people, the fruit of their own plotting, for they have paid no attention to My word. They have rejected My law.

<sup>20</sup> What use to Me is frankincense from Sheba or sweet cane from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable; your sacrifices do not please Me.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I am going to place stumbling blocks before these people; fathers and sons together will stumble over them; friends and neighbors will also perish.

<sup>22</sup> This is what the LORD says: Look, an army is coming from a northern land; a

great nation will be awakened from the remote regions of the earth.

<sup>23</sup> They grasp bow and javelin. They are cruel and show no mercy. Their voice roars like the sea, and they ride on horses, lined up like men in battle formation against you, Daughter Zion.

<sup>24</sup> We have heard about it, and we are discouraged. Distress has seized us--pain like a woman in labor.

<sup>25</sup> Don't go out to the fields; don't walk on the road. For the enemy has a sword; terror is on every side.

<sup>26</sup> My dear people, dress yourselves in sackcloth and roll in the dust. Mourn as you would for an only son, a bitter lament, for suddenly the destroyer will come on us.

<sup>27</sup> I have appointed you to be an assayer among My people--a refiner--so you may know and assay their way of life.

<sup>28</sup> All are stubborn rebels spreading slander. They are bronze and iron; all of them are corrupt.

<sup>29</sup> The bellows blow, blasting the lead with fire. The refining is completely in vain; the evil ones are not separated out.

<sup>30</sup> They are called rejected silver, for the LORD has rejected them.

**7** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Stand in the gate of the house of the LORD and there call out this word: Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who enter through these gates to worship the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Correct your ways and your deeds, and I will allow you to live in this place.

<sup>4</sup> Do not trust deceitful words, chanting: This is the temple of the LORD, the

temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Instead, if you really change your ways and your actions, if you act justly toward one another,

<sup>6</sup> if you no longer oppress the alien, the fatherless, and the widow and no longer shed innocent blood in this place or follow other gods, bringing harm on yourselves,

<sup>7</sup> I will allow you to live in this place, the land I gave to your ancestors forever and ever.

<sup>8</sup> But look, you keep trusting in deceitful words that cannot help.

<sup>9</sup> "Do you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and follow other gods that you have not known?

<sup>10</sup> Then do you come and stand before Me in this house called by My name and insist: We are safe? As a result,

you are free to continue doing all these detestable acts!

<sup>11</sup> Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your view? Yes, I too have seen it ." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>12</sup> "But return to My place that was at Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at first. See what I did to it because of the evil of My people Israel.

<sup>13</sup> Now, because you have done all these things"--this is the LORD's declaration--"and because I have spoken to you time and time again but you wouldn't listen, and I have called to you, but you wouldn't answer,

<sup>14</sup> what I did to Shiloh I will do to the house that is called by My name--the house in which you trust--the place that I gave you and your ancestors.

<sup>15</sup> I will drive you from My presence, just as I drove out all of your brothers, all the descendants of Ephraim.

<sup>16</sup> "As for you, do not pray for these people. Do not offer a cry or a prayer on their behalf, and do not beg Me, for I will not listen to you.

<sup>17</sup> Don't you see how they behave in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

<sup>18</sup> The sons gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven, and they pour out drink offerings to other gods so that they provoke Me to anger.

<sup>19</sup> But are they really provoking Me?" This is the LORD's declaration. "Isn't it they themselves being provoked to disgrace?"

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: "Look, My anger--My burning



wrath--is about to be poured out on this place, on man and beast, on the tree of the field, and on the fruit of the ground. My wrath will burn and not be quenched."

<sup>21</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "Add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices, and eat the meat yourselves,

<sup>22</sup> for when I brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak with them or command them concerning burnt offering and sacrifice.

<sup>23</sup> However, I did give them this command: Obey Me, and then I will be your God, and you will be My people. You must walk in every way I command you so that it may go well with you."

<sup>24</sup> Yet they didn't listen or pay attention but walked according to their own advice and according to their own stubborn,

evil heart. They went backward and not forward.

<sup>25</sup> Since the day your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent all My servants the prophets to you time and time again.

<sup>26</sup> However, they wouldn't listen to Me or pay attention but became obstinate; they did more evil than their ancestors.

<sup>27</sup> "When you speak all these things to them, they will not listen to you. When you call to them, they will not answer you.

<sup>28</sup> You must therefore declare to them: This is the nation that would not listen to the voice of the LORD their God and would not accept discipline. Truth has perished--it has disappeared from their mouths.

<sup>29</sup> Cut off the hair of your sacred vow and throw it away. Raise up a dirge on the barren heights, for the LORD has

rejected and abandoned the generation under His wrath.

<sup>30</sup> "For the Judeans have done what is evil in My sight." This is the LORD's declaration. "They have set up their detestable things in the house that is called by My name and defiled it.

<sup>31</sup> They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Hinnom in order to burn their sons and daughters in the fire, a thing I did not command; I never entertained the thought.

<sup>32</sup> "Therefore, take note! Days are coming"--the LORD's declaration--"when this place will no longer be called Topheth and the Valley of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. Topheth will become a cemetery, because there will be no other burial place.

<sup>33</sup> The corpses of these people will become food for the birds of the sky and

for the wild animals of the land, with no one to scare them off.

<sup>34</sup> I will remove from the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem the sound of joy and gladness and the voices of the bridegroom and the bride, for the land will become a desolate waste.

**8** <sup>1</sup> "At that time"--this is the LORD's declaration--"the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of her officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the residents of Jerusalem will be brought out of their graves.

<sup>2</sup> They will be exposed to the sun, the moon, and the whole heavenly host, which they have loved, served, followed, pursued, and worshiped. Their bones will not be collected and buried but will become like manure on the surface of the soil.

<sup>3</sup> Death will be chosen over life by all the survivors of this evil family, those who remain wherever I have banished them." This is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>4</sup> You are to say to them: This is what the LORD says: Do people fall and not get up again? If they turn away, do they not return?

<sup>5</sup> Why have these people turned away? Why is Jerusalem always turning away? They take hold of deceit; they refuse to return.

<sup>6</sup> I have paid careful attention. They do not speak what is right. No one regrets his evil, asking: What have I done? Everyone has stayed his course like a horse rushing into battle.

<sup>7</sup> Even the stork in the sky knows her seasons. The turtledove, swallow, and crane are aware of their migration,

but My people do not know the requirements of the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> How can you claim: We are wise; the law of the LORD is with us? In fact, the lying pen of scribes has produced falsehood.

<sup>9</sup> The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and snared. They have rejected the word of the LORD, so what wisdom do they really have?

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, I will give their wives to other men, their fields to new occupants, for from the least to the greatest, everyone is gaining profit unjustly. From prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

<sup>11</sup> They have treated superficially the brokenness of My dear people, claiming: Peace, peace, when there is no peace.

<sup>12</sup> Were they ashamed when they acted so abhorrently? They weren't at all ashamed. They can no longer feel

humiliation. Therefore, they will fall among the fallen. When I punish them, they will collapse, says the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> I will gather them and bring them to an end. This is the LORD's declaration. There will be no grapes on the vine, no figs on the fig tree, and even the leaf will wither. Whatever I have given them will be lost to them.

<sup>14</sup> Why are we just sitting here? Gather together; let us enter the fortified cities and there suffer our fate, for the LORD our God has condemned us. He has given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> We hoped for peace, but there was nothing good; for a time of healing, but there was only terror.

<sup>16</sup> From Dan is heard the snorting of horses. At the sound of the neighing of mighty steeds, the whole land quakes. They come to devour the land and

everything in it, the city and all its residents.

<sup>17</sup> Indeed, I am about to send snakes among you, poisonous vipers that cannot be charmed. They will bite you. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>18</sup> My joy has flown away; grief has settled on me. My heart is sick.

<sup>19</sup> Listen--the cry of my dear people from a far away land: Is the LORD no longer in Zion, her King not in her midst? Why have they provoked Me to anger with their graven images, with their worthless foreign idols?

<sup>20</sup> Harvest has passed, summer has ended, but we have not been saved.

<sup>21</sup> I am broken by the brokenness of my dear people. I mourn; horror has taken hold of me.

<sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? So why has the



healing of my dear people not come about?

**9**<sup>1</sup> If my head were water, my eyes a fountain of tears, I would weep day and night over the slain of my dear people.

<sup>2</sup> If only I had a traveler's lodging place in the wilderness, I would abandon my people and depart from them, for they are all adulterers, a solemn assembly of treacherous people.

<sup>3</sup> They bent their tongues like their bows; lies and not faithfulness prevail in the land, for they proceed from one evil to another, and they do not take Me into account. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>4</sup> Everyone has to be on guard against his friend. Don't trust any brother, for every brother will certainly deceive, and every friend spread slander.

<sup>5</sup> Each one betrays his friend; no one tells the truth. They have taught

their tongues to speak lies; they wear themselves out doing wrong.

<sup>6</sup> You live in a world of deception. In their deception they refuse to know Me. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts says: I am about to refine them and test them, for what else can I do because of My dear people?

<sup>8</sup> Their tongues are deadly arrows--they speak deception. With his mouth a man speaks peaceably with his friend, but inwardly he sets up an ambush.

<sup>9</sup> Should I not punish them for these things? This is the LORD's declaration. Should I not take My revenge against a nation such as this?

<sup>10</sup> I will raise weeping and a lament over the mountains, a dirge over the wilderness grazing land, for they have been so scorched that no one passes through. The sound of cattle is no longer

heard. From the birds of the sky to the animals, everything has fled--they have gone away.

<sup>11</sup> I will make Jerusalem a heap of rubble, a jackals' den. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, an uninhabited place.

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man wise enough to understand this? Who has the LORD spoken to, that he may explain it? Why is the land destroyed and scorched like a wilderness, so no one can pass through?

<sup>13</sup> The LORD said, "It is because they abandoned My law I set in front of them and did not obey My voice or walk according to it.

<sup>14</sup> Instead, they followed the stubbornness of their hearts and the Baals, as their fathers taught them."

<sup>15</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to feed this people wormwood

and give them poisonous waters to drink.

<sup>16</sup> I will scatter them among nations that they and their fathers have not known. I will send a sword after them until I have finished them off."

<sup>17</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Consider, and summon the women who mourn; send for the skillful women.

<sup>18</sup> Let them come quickly to raise a lament over us so that our eyes may overflow with tears, our eyelids soaked with weeping.

<sup>19</sup> For a sound of lamentation is heard from Zion: How devastated we are. We are greatly ashamed, for we have abandoned the land; our dwellings have been torn down.

<sup>20</sup> Now hear the word of the LORD, you women. Pay attention to the word of His mouth. Teach your daughters a lament and one another a dirge,

<sup>21</sup> for Death has climbed through our windows; it has entered our fortresses, cutting off children from the streets, young men from the squares.

<sup>22</sup> Speak as follows: This is what the LORD says: Human corpses will fall like manure on the surface of the field, like newly cut grain after the reaper with no one to gather it .

<sup>23</sup> This is what the LORD says: The wise must not boast in his wisdom; the mighty must not boast in his might; the rich must not boast in his riches.

<sup>24</sup> But the one who boasts should boast in this, that he understands and knows Me--that I am the LORD, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>25</sup> "The days are coming"--the LORD's declaration--"when I will punish all the circumcised yet uncircumcised:

<sup>26</sup> Egypt, Judah, Edom, the Ammonites, Moab, all those who clip the hair on their temples and reside in the wilderness. All these nations are uncircumcised, and the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart."

**10** <sup>1</sup> Hear the word that the LORD has spoken to you, house of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> This is what the LORD says: Do not learn the way of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, although the nations are terrified by them,

<sup>3</sup> for the customs of the peoples are worthless. Someone cuts down a tree from the forest; it is worked by the hands of a craftsman with a chisel.

<sup>4</sup> He decorates it with silver and gold. It is fastened with hammer and nails, so it won't totter.

<sup>5</sup> Like scarecrows in a cucumber patch, their idols cannot speak. They must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them for they can do no harm--and they cannot do any good.

<sup>6</sup> LORD, there is no one like You. You are great; Your name is great in power.

<sup>7</sup> Who should not fear You, King of the nations? It is what You deserve. For among all the wise people of the nations and among all their kingdoms, there is no one like You.

<sup>8</sup> They are both senseless and foolish, instructed by worthless idols made of wood!

<sup>9</sup> Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz from the hands of a goldsmith, the work of a craftsman. Their clothing is blue and purple, all the work of skilled artisans.

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King. The

earth quakes at His wrath, and the nations cannot endure His rage.

<sup>11</sup> You are to say this to them: The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under these heavens.

<sup>12</sup> He made the earth by His power, established the world by His wisdom, and spread out the heavens by His understanding.

<sup>13</sup> When He thunders, the waters in the heavens are in turmoil, and He causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain and brings the wind from His storehouses.

<sup>14</sup> Everyone is stupid and ignorant. Every goldsmith is put to shame by his carved image, for his cast images are a lie; there is no breath in them.



<sup>15</sup> They are worthless, a work to be mocked. At the time of their punishment they will be destroyed.

<sup>16</sup> Jacob's Portion is not like these because He is the One who formed all things. Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; the LORD of Hosts is His name.

<sup>17</sup> Gather up your belongings from the ground, you who live under siege.

<sup>18</sup> For this is what the LORD says: Look, I am slinging out the land's residents at this time and bringing them such distress that they will feel it.

<sup>19</sup> Woe to me because of my brokenness--I am severely wounded! I exclaimed, "This is my intense suffering, but I must bear it."

<sup>20</sup> My tent is destroyed; all my tent cords are snapped. My sons have departed from me and are no more. I

have no one to pitch my tent again or to hang up my curtains.

<sup>21</sup> For the shepherds are stupid: they don't seek the LORD. Therefore they have not prospered, and their whole flock is scattered.

<sup>22</sup> Listen! A noise--it is coming--a great commotion from the land to the north. The cities of Judah will be made desolate, a jackals' den.

<sup>23</sup> I know, LORD, that a man's way of life is not his own; no one who walks determines his own steps.

<sup>24</sup> Discipline me, LORD, but with justice--not in Your anger, or You will reduce me to nothing.

<sup>25</sup> Pour out Your wrath on the nations that don't recognize You and on the families that don't call on Your name, for they have consumed Jacob; they have consumed him and finished him off and made his homeland desolate.

**11** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Listen to the words of this covenant, and tell them to the men of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> You must tell them: This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Let a curse be on the man who does not obey the words of this covenant,

<sup>4</sup> which I commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the iron furnace. I declared: 'Obey Me, and do everything that I command you, and you will be My people, and I will be your God,'

<sup>5</sup> in order to establish the oath I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is today." I answered, "Amen, LORD."

<sup>6</sup> The LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in

the streets of Jerusalem: Obey the words of this covenant and carry them out.

<sup>7</sup> For I strongly warned your ancestors when I brought them out of the land of Egypt until today, warning them time and time again: Obey My voice.

<sup>8</sup> Yet they would not obey or pay attention; each one followed the stubbornness of his evil heart. So I brought on them all the curses of this covenant, because they had not done what I commanded them to do."

<sup>9</sup> The LORD said to me, "A conspiracy has been discovered among the men of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> They have returned to the sins of their ancestors who refused to obey My words and have followed other gods to worship them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah broke My covenant I made with their ancestors.

<sup>11</sup> "Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I am about to bring on them disaster that they cannot escape. They will cry out to Me, but I will not hear them.

<sup>12</sup> Then the cities of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods they have been burning incense to, but they certainly will not save them in their time of disaster.

<sup>13</sup> Your gods are indeed as numerous as your cities, Judah, and the altars you have set up to Shame--altars to burn incense to Baal--as numerous as the streets of Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> "As for you, do not pray for these people. Do not raise up a cry or a prayer on their behalf, for I will not be listening when they call out to Me at the time of their disaster.

<sup>15</sup> What right does My beloved have to be in My house, having carried out

so many evil schemes? Can holy meat prevent your disaster so you can rejoice?

<sup>16</sup> The LORD named you a flourishing olive tree, beautiful with well-formed fruit. He has set fire to it, and its branches are consumed with a great roaring sound.

<sup>17</sup> "The LORD of Hosts who planted you has decreed disaster against you, because of the harm the house of Israel and the house of Judah brought on themselves, provoking Me to anger by burning incense to Baal."

<sup>18</sup> The LORD informed me, so I knew. Then You helped me to see their deeds,

<sup>19</sup> for I was like a docile lamb led to slaughter. I didn't know that they had devised plots against me: "Let's destroy the tree with its fruit; let's cut him off from the land of the living so that his name will no longer be remembered."

<sup>20</sup> But, LORD of Hosts, who judges righteously, who tests heart and mind, let me see Your vengeance on them, for I have presented my case to You.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, here is what the LORD says concerning the people of Anathoth who want to take your life. They warn, "You must not prophesy in the name of the LORD, or you will certainly die at our hand."

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts says: "I am about to punish them. The young men will die by the sword; their sons and daughters will die by famine.

<sup>23</sup> They will have no remnant, for I will bring disaster on the people of Anathoth in the year of their punishment."

**12** <sup>1</sup> You will be righteous, LORD, even if I bring a case against You. Yet, I wish to contend with You: Why

does the way of the wicked prosper?  
Why do the treacherous live at ease?

<sup>2</sup> You planted them, and they have taken root. They have grown and produced fruit. You are ever on their lips, but far from their conscience.

<sup>3</sup> As for You, You know me, LORD; You see me. You test whether my heart is with You. Drag the wicked away like sheep to slaughter, and set them apart for the day of killing.

<sup>4</sup> How long will the land mourn and the grass of every field wither? Because of the evil of its residents, animals and birds have been swept away, for the people have said, "He cannot see what our end will be."

<sup>5</sup> If you have raced with runners and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in a peaceful land, what will you do in the thickets of the Jordan?



<sup>6</sup> Even your brothers--your own father's household--even they were treacherous to you; even they have cried out loudly after you. Do not have confidence in them, though they speak well of you.

<sup>7</sup> I have abandoned My house; I have deserted My inheritance. I have given the love of My life into the hand of her enemies.

<sup>8</sup> My inheritance has acted toward Me like a lion in the forest. She has roared against Me. Therefore, I hate her.

<sup>9</sup> Is My inheritance like a hyena to Me? Are birds of prey circling her? Go, gather all the wild animals; bring them to devour her .

<sup>10</sup> Many shepherds have destroyed My vineyard; they have trampled My plot of land. They have turned My desirable plot into a desolate wasteland.

<sup>11</sup> They have made it a desolation. It mourns, desolate, before Me. All the

land is desolate, but no one takes it to heart.

<sup>12</sup> Over all the barren heights in the wilderness the destroyers have come, for the LORD has a sword that devours from one end of the earth to the other. No one has peace.

<sup>13</sup> They have sown wheat but harvested thorns. They have exhausted themselves but have no profit. Be put to shame by your harvests because of the LORD's burning anger.

<sup>14</sup> This is what the LORD says:  
"Concerning all My evil neighbors who attack the inheritance that I bequeathed to My people, Israel, I am about to uproot them from their land, and I will uproot the house of Judah from among them.

<sup>15</sup> After I have uprooted them, I will once again have compassion on them

and return each one to his inheritance and to his land.

<sup>16</sup> If they will diligently learn the ways of My people--to swear by My name, 'As the LORD lives,' just as they taught My people to swear by Baal--they will be built up among My people.

<sup>17</sup> However, if they will not obey, then I will uproot and destroy that nation." This is the LORD's declaration.

**13** <sup>1</sup> This is what the LORD said to me: "Go and buy yourself linen underwear and put it on, but don't get it wet."

<sup>2</sup> So I bought underwear as the LORD instructed me and put it on.

<sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me a second time:

<sup>4</sup> "Take the underwear that you bought and are wearing, and go at once to the Euphrates River and hide it in a rocky crevice."

<sup>5</sup> So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.

<sup>6</sup> A long time later the LORD said to me, "Go at once to the Euphrates and get the underwear that I commanded you to hide there."

<sup>7</sup> So I went to the Euphrates and dug up the underwear and got it from the place where I had hidden it, but it was ruined--of no use whatsoever.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>9</sup> "This is what the LORD says: Just like this I will ruin the great pride of both Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> These evil people, who refuse to listen to Me, who walk in the stubbornness of their own hearts, and who have followed other gods to serve and worship--they will be like this underwear, of no use whatsoever.

<sup>11</sup> Just as underwear clings to one's waist, so I fastened the whole house of Israel and of Judah to Me"--this is the LORD's declaration --"so that they might be My people for My fame, praise, and glory, but they would not obey.

<sup>12</sup> "Say this to them: This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Every jar should be filled with wine. Then they will respond to you: Don't we know that every jar should be filled with wine?

<sup>13</sup> And you will say to them, This is what the LORD says: I am about to fill all who live in this land--the kings who reign for David on his throne, the priests, the prophets and all the residents of Jerusalem--with drunkenness.

<sup>14</sup> I will smash them against each other, fathers and sons alike"--the LORD's declaration. "I will allow no mercy, pity, or compassion to keep Me from destroying them."

<sup>15</sup> Listen and pay attention. Do not be 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 mountains at dusk. You wait for light, but He brings darkest gloom and makes thick darkness.

<sup>17</sup> But if you will not listen, my innermost being will weep in secret because of your pride. My eyes will overflow with tears, for the LORD's flock has been taken captive.

<sup>18</sup> Say to the king and the queen mother: Take a humble seat, for your glorious crowns have fallen from your heads.

<sup>19</sup> The cities of the Negev are under siege; no one can help them. All of Judah has been taken into exile, taken completely into exile.

<sup>20</sup> Look up and see those coming from the north. Where is the flock entrusted to you, the sheep that were your pride?

<sup>21</sup> What will you say when He appoints close friends as leaders over you, ones you yourself trained? Won't labor pains seize you, as they do a woman in labor?

<sup>22</sup> And when you ask yourself: Why have these things happened to me?--it is because of your great guilt that your skirts have been stripped off, your body ravished.

<sup>23</sup> Can the Cushite change his skin, or a leopard his spots? If so, you might be able to do what is good, you who are instructed in evil.

<sup>24</sup> I will scatter you like drifting chaff before the desert wind.

<sup>25</sup> This is your lot, what I have decreed for you--this is the LORD's declaration--because you have forgotten Me and trusted in Falsehood.

<sup>26</sup> I will pull your skirts up over your face so that your shame might be seen.

<sup>27</sup> Your adulteries and your lustful neighings, your heinous prostitution on the hills, in the fields--I have seen your detestable acts. Woe to you, Jerusalem! You are unclean--for how long yet?

**14** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

<sup>2</sup> Judah mourns; her gates languish. Her people are on the ground in mourning; Jerusalem's cry rises up.

<sup>3</sup> Their nobles send their servants for water. They go to the cisterns; they find no water; their containers return empty. They are ashamed and humiliated; they cover their heads.

<sup>4</sup> The ground is cracked since no rain has fallen on the land. The farmers are ashamed; they cover their heads.



<sup>5</sup> Even the doe in the field gives birth and abandons her fawn since there is no grass.

<sup>6</sup> Wild donkeys stand on the barren heights panting for air like jackals. Their eyes fail because there are no green plants.

<sup>7</sup> Though our guilt testifies against us, LORD, act for Your name's sake. Indeed, our rebellions are many; we have sinned against You.

<sup>8</sup> Hope of Israel, its Savior in time of distress, why are You like an alien in the land, like a traveler stopping only for the night?

<sup>9</sup> Why are You like a helpless man, like a warrior unable to save? Yet You are among us, LORD, and we are called by Your name. Don't leave us!

<sup>10</sup> This is what the LORD says concerning these people: Truly they love to wander; they never rest their feet. So the LORD

does not accept them. Now He will remember their guilt and punish their sins.

<sup>11</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for the well-being of these people.

<sup>12</sup> If they fast, I will not hear their cry of despair. If they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. Rather, I will finish them off by sword, famine, and plague."

<sup>13</sup> And I replied, "Oh no, Lord GOD! The prophets are telling them, 'You won't see sword or suffer famine. I will certainly give you true peace in this place.'"

<sup>14</sup> But the LORD said to me, "These prophets are prophesying a lie in My name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a false vision, worthless divination, the deceit of their own minds.

<sup>15</sup> "Therefore, this is what the LORD says concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, though I did not send them, and who say: There will never be sword or famine in this land: By sword and famine these prophets will meet their end.

<sup>16</sup> The people they are prophesying to will be thrown into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword. There will be no one to bury them--they, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. I will pour out their own evil on them."

<sup>17</sup> You are to speak this word to them: Let my eyes overflow with tears; day and night may they not stop, for the virgin daughter of my people has been destroyed by a great disaster, an extremely severe wound.

<sup>18</sup> If I go out to the field, look--those slain by the sword! If I enter the city,

look--those ill from famine! For both prophet and priest travel to a land they do not know.

<sup>19</sup> Have You completely rejected Judah? Do You detest Zion? Why do You strike us with no hope of healing for us? We hoped for peace, but there was nothing good; for a time of healing, but there was only terror.

<sup>20</sup> We acknowledge our wickedness, LORD, the guilt of our fathers; indeed, we have sinned against You.

<sup>21</sup> Because of Your name, don't despise us . Don't disdain Your glorious throne. Remember Your covenant with us; do not break it.

<sup>22</sup> Can any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the skies alone give showers? Are You not the LORD our God? We therefore put our hope in You, for You have done all these things.

**15** <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel should stand before Me, My compassions would not reach out to these people. Send them from My presence, and let them go.

<sup>2</sup> If they ask you: Where will we go? you must tell them: This is what the LORD says: Those destined for death, to death; those destined for the sword, to the sword. Those destined for famine, to famine; those destined for captivity, to captivity.

<sup>3</sup> "I will ordain four kinds of judgment for them"--this is the LORD's declaration--"the sword to kill, the dogs to drag away, and the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the land to devour and destroy.

<sup>4</sup> I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of Manasseh son of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem.

<sup>5</sup> Who will have pity on you, Jerusalem?  
Who will show sympathy toward you?  
Who will turn aside to ask about your  
welfare?

<sup>6</sup> You have left Me. This is the LORD's  
declaration. You have turned your back,  
so I have stretched out My hand against  
you and destroyed you. I am tired of  
showing compassion.

<sup>7</sup> I scattered them with a winnowing  
fork at the gates of the land. I made  
them childless; I destroyed My people.  
They would not turn from their ways.

<sup>8</sup> I made their widows more numerous  
than the sand of the seas. I brought  
against the mother of young men a  
destroyer at noon. I suddenly released  
on her agitation and terrors.

<sup>9</sup> The mother of seven grew faint; she  
breathed her last breath. Her sun set  
while it was still day; she was ashamed  
and humiliated. The rest of them I will

give over to the sword in the presence of their enemies." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>10</sup> Woe is me, my mother, that you gave birth to me, a man who incites dispute and conflict in all the land. I did not lend or borrow, yet everyone curses me.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said: Assuredly, I will set you free and care for you. Assuredly, I will intercede for you in a time of trouble, in your time of distress, with the enemy.

<sup>12</sup> Can anyone smash iron, iron from the north, or bronze?

<sup>13</sup> Your wealth and your treasures I will give as plunder, without cost, for all your sins, and within all your borders.

<sup>14</sup> Then I will make you serve your enemies in a land you do not know, for My anger will kindle a fire that will burn against you.

<sup>15</sup> You know, LORD; remember me and take note of me. Avenge me against my persecutors. In Your patience, don't take me away. Know that I suffer disgrace for Your honor.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them. Your words became a delight to me and the joy of my heart, for I am called by Your name, LORD God of Hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I never sat with the band of revelers, and I did not celebrate with them . Because Your hand was on me , I sat alone, for You filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why has my pain become unending, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? You truly have become like a mirage to me--water that is not reliable.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: If you return, I will restore you; you will stand in My presence. And if you speak noble words , rather than worthless ones, you will be My spokesman. It is



they who must return to you; you must not return to them.

<sup>20</sup> Then I will make you a fortified wall of bronze to this people. They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you from the power of evil people and redeem you from the control of the ruthless.

**16** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "You must not marry or have sons or daughters in this place.

<sup>3</sup> For this is what the LORD says concerning sons and daughters born in this place as well as concerning the mothers who bear them and the fathers who father them in this land:

<sup>4</sup> They will die from deadly diseases. They will not be mourned or buried but will be like manure on the face of the

earth. They will be finished off by sword and famine. Their corpses will become food for the birds of the sky and for the wild animals of the land.

<sup>5</sup> "For this is what the LORD says: Don't enter a house where a mourning feast is taking place. Don't go to lament or sympathize with them, for I have removed My peace from these people"--this is the LORD's declaration--"as well as My faithful love and compassion.

<sup>6</sup> Both great and small will die in this land without burial. No lament will be made for them, nor will anyone cut himself or shave his head for them.

<sup>7</sup> Food won't be provided for the mourner to comfort him because of the dead. A cup of consolation won't be given him because of the loss of his father or mother.

<sup>8</sup> You must not enter the house where feasting is taking place to sit with them to eat and drink.

<sup>9</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I am about to eliminate from this place, before your very eyes and in your time, the sound of joy and gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the bride.

<sup>10</sup> "When you tell these people all these things, they will say to you: Why has the LORD declared all this great disaster against us? What is our guilt? What is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?

<sup>11</sup> Then you will answer them: Because your fathers abandoned Me"--the LORD's declaration--"and followed other gods, served them, and worshiped them. Indeed, they abandoned Me and did not keep My law.

<sup>12</sup> You did more evil than your fathers. Look, each one of you was following the stubbornness of his evil heart, not obeying Me.

<sup>13</sup> So I will hurl you from this land into a land that you and your fathers are not familiar with. There you will worship other gods both day and night, for I will not grant you grace.

<sup>14</sup> "However, take note! The days are coming"--the LORD's declaration--"when it will no longer be said: As the LORD lives who brought the Israelites from the land of Egypt,

<sup>15</sup> but rather: As the LORD lives who brought the Israelites from the land of the north and from all the other lands where He had banished them. For I will return them to their land that I gave to their ancestors.

<sup>16</sup> "I am about to send for many fishermen"--the LORD's declaration--

"and they will fish for them. Then I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and out of the clefts of the rocks,

<sup>17</sup> for My gaze takes in all their ways. They are not concealed from Me, and their guilt is not hidden from My sight.

<sup>18</sup> I will first repay them double for their guilt and sin because they have polluted My land. They have filled My inheritance with the lifelessness of their detestable and abhorrent idols."

<sup>19</sup> LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in a time of distress, the nations will come to You from the ends of the earth, and they will say, "Our fathers inherited only lies, worthless idols of no benefit at all."

<sup>20</sup> Can one make gods for himself? But they are not gods.

<sup>21</sup> "Therefore, I am about to inform them, and this time I will make them

know My power and My might; then they will know that My name is Yahweh."

**17** <sup>1</sup> The sin of Judah is written with an iron stylus. With a diamond point it is engraved on the tablet of their hearts and on the horns of their altars,  
<sup>2</sup> while their children remember their altars and their Asherah poles, by the green trees on the high hills--

<sup>3</sup> My mountains in the countryside. Your wealth and all your treasures I will give up as plunder because of the sin of your high places within all your borders.

<sup>4</sup> You will, of yourself, relinquish your inheritance that I gave you. I will make you serve your enemies in a land you do not know, for you have set My anger on fire; it will burn forever.

<sup>5</sup> This is what the LORD says: Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind, who makes human flesh his strength and turns his heart from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> He will be like a juniper in the Arabah; he cannot see when good comes but dwells in the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land where no one lives.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence indeed is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> He will be like a tree planted by water: it sends its roots out toward a stream, it doesn't fear when heat comes, and its foliage remains green. It will not worry in a year of drought or cease producing fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is more deceitful than anything else and desperately sick--who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> I, the LORD, examine the mind, I test the heart to give to each according to his way, according to what his actions deserve.

<sup>11</sup> He who makes a fortune unjustly is like a partridge that hatches eggs it didn't lay. In the middle of his days his riches will abandon him, so in the end he will be a fool.

<sup>12</sup> A throne of glory on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary,

<sup>13</sup> LORD, the hope of Israel, all who abandon You will be put to shame. All who turn away from Me will be written in the dirt, for they have abandoned the fountain of living water, the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> Heal me, LORD, and I will be healed; save me, and I will be saved, for You are my praise.

<sup>15</sup> Hear how they keep challenging me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!"

<sup>16</sup> But I have not run away from being Your shepherd, and I have not longed for the fatal day. You know my words were spoken in Your presence.



<sup>17</sup> Don't become a terror to me. You are my refuge in the day of disaster.

<sup>18</sup> Let my persecutors be put to shame, but don't let me be put to shame. Let them be terrified, but don't let me be terrified. Bring on them the day of disaster; shatter them with total destruction.

<sup>19</sup> This is what the LORD said to me, "Go and stand in the People's Gate, through which the kings of Judah enter and leave, and in all the gates of Jerusalem.

<sup>20</sup> Announce to them: Hear the word of the LORD, kings of Judah, all Judah, and all the residents of Jerusalem who enter through these gates.

<sup>21</sup> This is what the LORD says: Watch yourselves; do not pick up a load and bring it in through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day.

<sup>22</sup> You must not carry a load out of your houses on the Sabbath day or do

any work, but you must consecrate the Sabbath day, just as I commanded your ancestors.

<sup>23</sup> They wouldn't listen or pay attention but became obstinate, not listening or accepting discipline.

<sup>24</sup> "However, if you listen to Me, says the LORD, and do not bring loads through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day and consecrate the Sabbath day and do no work on it,

<sup>25</sup> kings and princes will enter through the gates of this city. They will sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses with their officials, the men of Judah, and the residents of Jerusalem. This city will be inhabited forever.

<sup>26</sup> Then people will come from the cities of Judah and from the area around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin and from the Judean foothills, from the hill country and from the Negev bringing

burnt offerings and sacrifice, grain offerings and frankincense, and thank offerings to the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> If you do not listen to Me to consecrate the Sabbath day by not carrying a load while entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, I will set fire to its gates, and it will consume the citadels of Jerusalem and not be extinguished."

**18** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "Go down at once to the potter's house; there I will reveal My words to you."

<sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, working away at the wheel.

<sup>4</sup> But the jar that he was making from the clay became flawed in the potter's hand, so he made it into another jar, as it seemed right for him to do.

<sup>5</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>6</sup> "House of Israel, can I not treat you as this potter treats his clay ?"--this is the LORD's declaration. "Just like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> At one moment I might announce concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will uproot, tear down, and destroy it .

<sup>8</sup> However, if that nation I have made an announcement about, turns from its evil, I will not bring the disaster on it I had planned.

<sup>9</sup> At another time I announce that I will build and plant a nation or a kingdom.

<sup>10</sup> However, if it does what is evil in My sight by not listening to My voice, I will not bring the good I had said I would do to it.

<sup>11</sup> So now, say to the men of Judah and to the residents of Jerusalem: This is what the LORD says: I am about to bring

harm to you and make plans against you. Turn now, each from your evil way, and correct your ways and your deeds.

<sup>12</sup> But they will say: It's hopeless. We will continue to follow our plans, and each of us will continue to act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: Ask among the nations, Who has heard things like these? Virgin Israel has done a most terrible thing.

<sup>14</sup> Does the snow of Lebanon ever leave the highland crags? Or does cold water flowing from a distance ever fail?

<sup>15</sup> Yet My people have forgotten Me. They burn incense to false idols that make them stumble in their ways--in the ancient roads--to walk on new paths, not the highway.

<sup>16</sup> They have made their land a horror, a perpetual object of scorn; everyone who

passes by it will be horrified and shake his head.

<sup>17</sup> I will scatter them before the enemy like the east wind. I will show them My back and not My face on the day of their calamity.

<sup>18</sup> Then certain ones said, "Come, let's make plans against Jeremiah, for the law will never be lost from the priest, or counsel from the wise, or an oracle from the prophet. Come, let's denounce him and pay no attention to all his words."

<sup>19</sup> Pay attention to me, LORD. Hear what my opponents are saying!

<sup>20</sup> Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for me. Remember how I stood before You to speak good on their behalf, to turn Your anger from them.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, hand their children over to famine, and pour the sword's power on them. Let their wives become childless

and widowed, their husbands slain by deadly disease, their young men struck down by the sword in battle.

<sup>22</sup> Let a cry be heard from their houses when You suddenly bring raiders against them, for they have dug a pit to capture me and have hidden snares for my feet.

<sup>23</sup> But You, LORD, know all their deadly plots against me. Do not wipe out their guilt; do not blot out their sin before You. Let them be forced to stumble before You; deal with them in the time of Your anger.

**19** <sup>1</sup> This is what the LORD says: "Go, buy a potter's clay jug. 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 Hinnom near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. Proclaim there the words I speak to you.

<sup>3</sup> Say: Hear the word of the LORD, kings of Judah and residents of Jerusalem.

This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on this place that everyone who hears about it will shudder

<sup>4</sup> because they have abandoned Me and made this a foreign place. They have burned incense in it to other gods that they, their fathers, and the kings of Judah have never known. They have filled this place with the blood of the innocent.

<sup>5</sup> They have built high places to Baal on which to burn their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, something I have never commanded or mentioned; I never entertained the thought.

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore, take note! The days are coming"--this is the LORD's declaration--"when this place will no longer be called Topheth and the Valley of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.



<sup>7</sup> I will spoil the plans of Judah and Jerusalem in this place. I will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, by the hand of those who want to take their life. I will provide their corpses as food for the birds of the sky and for the wild animals of the land.

<sup>8</sup> I will make this city desolate, an object of scorn. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and scoff because of all its wounds.

<sup>9</sup> I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and they will eat each other's flesh in the siege and distress that their enemies, those who want to take their life, inflict on them.

<sup>10</sup> "Then you are to shatter the jug in the presence of the people traveling with you,

<sup>11</sup> and you are to proclaim to them: This is what the LORD of Hosts says: I will shatter these people and this city,

like one shatters a potter's jar that can never again be mended. They will bury in Topheth until there is no place left to bury.

<sup>12</sup> I will do so to this place"--this is the declaration of the LORD--"and to its residents, making this city like Topheth.

<sup>13</sup> The houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will become impure like that place Topheth--all the houses on whose rooftops they have burned incense to the whole heavenly host and poured out drink offerings to other gods."

<sup>14</sup> Jeremiah came back from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, stood in the courtyard of the LORD's temple, and proclaimed to all the people,

<sup>15</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'I am about to bring on this city--and on all its

dependent villages--all the disaster that I spoke against it, for they have become obstinate, not obeying My words."

**20**<sup>1</sup> Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer and chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things.

<sup>2</sup> So Pashhur had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put him in the stocks at the Upper Benjamin Gate in the LORD's temple.

<sup>3</sup> The next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The LORD does not call you Pashhur, but Magor-missabib,

<sup>4</sup> for this is what the LORD says, 'I am about to make you a terror to both yourself and those you love. They will fall by the sword of their enemies before your very eyes. I will hand Judah over to the king of Babylon, and he will deport

them to Babylon and put them to the sword.

<sup>5</sup> I will give away all the wealth of this city, all its products and valuables. Indeed, I will hand all the treasures of the kings of Judah over to their enemies. They will plunder them, seize them, and carry them off to Babylon.

<sup>6</sup> As for you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house, you will go into captivity. You will go to Babylon. There you will die, and there you will be buried, you and all your friends that you prophesied falsely to.'"

<sup>7</sup> You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived. You seized me and prevailed. I am a laughingstock all the time; everyone ridicules me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I cry out--I proclaim: Violence and destruction! because the word of the LORD has

become for me constant disgrace and derision.

<sup>9</sup> If I say: I won't mention Him or speak any longer in His name, His message becomes a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones. I become tired of holding it in, and I cannot prevail.

<sup>10</sup> For I have heard the gossip of the multitudes, "Terror is on every side! Report him ; let's report him!" Everyone I trusted watches for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived so that we might prevail against him and take our vengeance on him."

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me like a violent warrior. Therefore, my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. Since they have not succeeded, they will be utterly shamed, an everlasting humiliation that will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> LORD of Hosts, testing the righteous and seeing the heart and mind, let me

see Your vengeance on them, for I have presented my case to You.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD! Praise the LORD, for He rescues the life of the needy from the hand of evil people.

<sup>14</sup> Cursed be the day on which I was born. The day my mother bore me--let it never be blessed.

<sup>15</sup> Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, saying, "A male child is born to you," bringing him great joy.

<sup>16</sup> Let that man be like the cities the LORD overthrew without compassion. Let him hear an outcry in the morning and a war cry at noontime

<sup>17</sup> because he didn't kill me in the womb so that my mother might have been my grave, her womb eternally pregnant.

<sup>18</sup> Why did I come out of the womb to see only struggle and sorrow, to end my life in shame?

**21** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD when King Zedekiah sent Pashhur son of Malchijah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah to Jeremiah, asking,

<sup>2</sup> "Ask the LORD on our behalf, since Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps the LORD will perform for us something like all His past wonderful works so that Nebuchadnezzar will withdraw from us."

<sup>3</sup> But Jeremiah answered, "This is what you are to say to Zedekiah:

<sup>4</sup> 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I will repel the weapons of war in your hands, those you are using to fight the king of Babylon and the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the wall, and I will bring them into the center of this city.

<sup>5</sup> I will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm, with anger, rage, and great wrath.

<sup>6</sup> I will strike the residents of this city, both man and beast. They will die in a great plague.

<sup>7</sup> Afterwards"--this is the LORD's declaration--"King Zedekiah of Judah, his officers, and the people--those in this city who survive the plague, the sword, and the famine--I will hand over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, to their enemies, yes, to those who want to take their lives. He will put them to the sword; he won't spare them or show pity or compassion.'

<sup>8</sup> "But you must say to this people, 'This is what the LORD says: Look, I am presenting to you the way of life and the way of death.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine, and plague, but



whoever goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you will live and will retain his life like the spoils of war .

<sup>10</sup> For I have turned against this city to bring disaster and not good""--this is the LORD's declaration. ""It will be handed over to the king of Babylon, who will burn it down.'

<sup>11</sup> "And to the house of the king of Judah say this : 'Hear the word of the LORD!

<sup>12</sup> House of David, this is what the LORD says: Administer justice every morning, and rescue the victim of robbery from the hand of his oppressor, or My anger will flare up like fire and burn unquenchably because of their evil deeds.

<sup>13</sup> Beware! I am against you, you who sit above the valley, you atop the rocky plateau--this is the LORD's

declaration--you who say: Who can come down against us? Who can enter our hiding places?

<sup>14</sup> I will punish you according to what you have done--this is the LORD's declaration. I will kindle a fire in its forest that will consume everything around it."

**22** <sup>1</sup> This is what the LORD says: "Go down to the palace of the king of Judah and announce this word there.

<sup>2</sup> You are to say: Hear the word of the LORD, king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David--you, your officers, and your people who enter these gates.

<sup>3</sup> This is what the LORD says: Administer justice and righteousness. Rescue the victim of robbery from the hand of his oppressor. Don't exploit or brutalize the alien, the fatherless, or the widow. Don't shed innocent blood in this place.

<sup>4</sup> For if you conscientiously carry out this word, then kings sitting on David's

throne will enter through the gates of this palace riding on chariots and horses--they, their officers, and their people.

<sup>5</sup> But if you do not obey these words, then I swear by Myself"--this is the LORD's declaration--"that this house will become a ruin."

<sup>6</sup> For this is what the LORD says concerning the house of the king of Judah: You are like Gilead to Me, or the summit of Lebanon, but I will certainly turn you into a wilderness, uninhabited cities.

<sup>7</sup> I will appoint destroyers against you, each with his weapons. They will cut down the choicest of your cedars and throw them into the fire.

<sup>8</sup> "Many nations will pass by this city and ask one another: Why did the LORD do such a thing to this great city?

<sup>9</sup> They will answer: Because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD their God and worshiped and served other gods."

<sup>10</sup> Do not weep for the dead; do not mourn for him. Weep bitterly for the one who has gone away, for he will never return again and see his native land.

<sup>11</sup> For this is what the LORD says concerning Shallum son of Josiah, king of Judah, who succeeded Josiah his father as king: "He has left this place--he will never return here again,

<sup>12</sup> but he will die in the place where they deported him, never seeing this land again."

<sup>13</sup> Woe for the one who builds his palace through unrighteousness, his upper rooms through injustice, who makes his fellow man serve without pay and will not give him his wages,

<sup>14</sup> who says: I will build myself a massive palace, with spacious upper rooms. He will cut windows in it, and it will be paneled with cedar and painted with vermilion.

<sup>15</sup> Are you a king because you excel in cedar? Your own father, did he not eat and drink? He administered justice and righteousness, then it went well with him.

<sup>16</sup> He took up the case of the poor and needy, then it went well. Is this not what it means to know Me? This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>17</sup> But you have eyes and heart for nothing except your own unjust gain, shedding innocent blood and committing extortion and oppression.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says concerning Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah: They will not mourn for him, saying, Woe, my brother! or Woe,

my sister! They will not mourn for him, saying, Woe, lord! Woe, his majesty!

<sup>19</sup> He will be buried like a donkey, dragged off and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem.

<sup>20</sup> Go up to Lebanon and cry out; raise your voice in Bashan; cry out from Abarim, for all your lovers have been crushed.

<sup>21</sup> I spoke to you when you were secure. You said: I will not listen. This has been your way since youth; indeed, you have never listened to Me.

<sup>22</sup> The wind will take charge of all your shepherds, and your lovers will go into captivity. Then you will be ashamed and humiliated because of all your evil.

<sup>23</sup> You residents of Lebanon, nestled among the cedars, how you will groan when labor pains come on you, agony like a woman in labor.

<sup>24</sup> "As I live," says the LORD, "though you, Coniah son of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, were a signet ring on My right hand, I would tear you from it.

<sup>25</sup> In fact, I will hand you over to those you dread, who want to take your life, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the Chaldeans.

<sup>26</sup> I will hurl you and the mother who gave birth to you into another land, where neither of you were born, and there you will both die.

<sup>27</sup> They will never return to the land they long to return to."

<sup>28</sup> Is this man Coniah a despised, shattered pot, a jar no one wants? Why are he and his descendants hurled out and cast into a land they have not known?

<sup>29</sup> Earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD!

<sup>30</sup> This is what the LORD says: Record this man as childless, a man who will not be successful in his lifetime. None of his descendants will succeed in sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.

**23** <sup>1</sup> "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>2</sup> "Therefore, this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who shepherd My people: You have scattered My flock, banished them, and have not attended to them. I will attend to you because of your evil acts"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>3</sup> "I will gather the remnant of My flock from all the lands where I have banished them, and I will return them to their grazing land. They will become fruitful and numerous.



<sup>4</sup> I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them. They will no longer be afraid or dismayed, nor will any be missing." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>5</sup> "The days are coming"--this is the LORD's declaration--"when I will raise up a righteous Branch of David. He will reign wisely as king and administer justice and righteousness in the land.

<sup>6</sup> In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. This is what He will be named: The LORD Is Our Righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> The days are coming"--the LORD's declaration--"when it will no longer be said: As the LORD lives who brought the Israelites from the land of Egypt,

<sup>8</sup> but: As the LORD lives, who brought and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the land of the north and from all the other countries where I had

banished them. They will dwell once more in their own land."

<sup>9</sup> Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me, and all my bones tremble. I have become like a drunkard, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD, because of His holy words.

<sup>10</sup> For the land is full of adulterers; the land mourns because of the curse, and the grazing lands in the wilderness have dried up. Their way of life has become evil, and their power is not rightly used

<sup>11</sup> because both prophet and priest are ungodly, even in My house I have found their evil. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, their way will be to them like slippery paths in the gloom. They will be driven away and fall down there, for I will bring disaster on them, the year of their punishment. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>13</sup> Among the prophets of Samaria I saw something disgusting: They prophesied by Baal and led My people Israel astray.

<sup>14</sup> Among the prophets of Jerusalem also I saw a horrible thing: They commit adultery and walk in lies. They strengthen the hands of evildoers, and none turns his back on evil. They are all like Sodom to Me; Jerusalem's residents are like Gomorrah.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts says concerning the prophets: I am about to feed them wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink, for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land.

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They are making you worthless. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the LORD's mouth.

<sup>17</sup> They keep on saying to those who despise Me: The LORD has said: You will have peace. To everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his heart they have said, No harm will come to you."

<sup>18</sup> For who has stood in the council of the LORD to see and hear His word? Who has paid attention to His word and obeyed?

<sup>19</sup> Look, a storm from the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling storm. It will whirl about the head of the wicked.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD's anger will not turn back until He has completely fulfilled the purposes of His heart. In time to come you will understand it clearly.

<sup>21</sup> I did not send these prophets, yet they ran with a message . I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup> If they had really stood in My council, they would have enabled My people to hear My words and would have turned

them back from their evil ways and their evil deeds.

<sup>23</sup> "Am I a God who is only near"--this is the LORD's declaration--"and not a God who is far away?

<sup>24</sup> Can a man hide himself in secret places where I cannot see him?"--the LORD's declaration. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>25</sup> "I have heard what the prophets who prophesy a lie in My name have said: I had a dream! I had a dream!

<sup>26</sup> How long will this continue in the minds of the prophets prophesying lies, prophets of the deceit of their own minds?

<sup>27</sup> Through their dreams that they tell one another, they make plans to cause My people to forget My name as their fathers forgot My name through Baal worship.

<sup>28</sup> The prophet who has only a dream should recount the dream, but the one who has My word should speak My word truthfully, for what is straw compared to grain?"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>29</sup> "Is not My word like fire"--the LORD's declaration--"and like a sledgehammer that pulverizes rock?

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, take note! I am against the prophets"--the LORD's declaration--"who steal My words from each other.

<sup>31</sup> I am against the prophets"--the LORD's declaration--"who use their own tongues to deliver an oracle.

<sup>32</sup> I am against those who prophesy false dreams"--the LORD's declaration--"telling them and leading My people astray with their falsehoods and their boasting. It was not I who sent or commanded them, and they are of no

benefit at all to these people"--this is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>33</sup> "Now when these people or a prophet or a priest asks you: What is the burden of the LORD? you will respond to them: What is the burden? I will throw you away"--this is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>34</sup> "As for the prophet, priest, or people who say: The burden of the LORD, I will punish that man and his household.

<sup>35</sup> This is what each man is to say to his friend and to his brother: What has the LORD answered? or What has the LORD spoken?

<sup>36</sup> But no longer refer to the burden of the LORD, for each man's word becomes his burden and you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of Hosts, our God.

<sup>37</sup> You must say to the prophet: What has the LORD answered you? and What has the LORD spoken?

<sup>38</sup> But if you say: The burden of the LORD, then this is what the LORD says: Because you have said, The burden of the LORD, and I specifically told you not to say, The burden of the LORD,

<sup>39</sup> I will surely forget you and throw away from My presence both you and the city that I gave you and your fathers.

<sup>40</sup> I will bring on you everlasting shame and humiliation that will never be forgotten."

**24** <sup>1</sup> After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had deported Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, the officials of Judah, and the craftsmen and metalsmiths from Jerusalem and had brought them to Babylon, the LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD.



<sup>2</sup> One basket contained very good figs, like early figs, but the other basket contained very bad figs, so bad they were inedible.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "Figs! The good figs are very good, but the bad figs are extremely bad, so bad they are inedible."

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>5</sup> "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Like these good figs, so I regard as good the exiles from Judah I sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans.

<sup>6</sup> I will keep My eyes on them for their good and will return them to this land. I will build them up and not demolish them; I will plant them and not uproot them.

<sup>7</sup> I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD. They will be My people, and I will be their God because

they will return to Me with all their heart.

<sup>8</sup> "But as for the bad figs, so bad they are inedible, this is what the LORD says: in this way I will deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem--those remaining in this land and those living in the land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> I will make them an object of horror and disaster to all the kingdoms of the earth, a disgrace, an object of scorn, ridicule, and cursing, wherever I have banished them.

<sup>10</sup> I will send the sword, famine, and plague against them until they have perished from the land I gave to them and their ancestors."

**25** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of

Judah (which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon).

<sup>2</sup> The prophet Jeremiah spoke concerning all the people of Judah and all the residents of Jerusalem as follows:

<sup>3</sup> "From the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah, until this very day--23 years--the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken to you time and time again, but you have not obeyed.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD sent all His servants the prophets to you time and time again, but you have not obeyed or even paid attention.

<sup>5</sup> He announced, 'Turn, each of you, from your evil way of life and from your evil deeds. Live in the land the LORD gave to you and your ancestors for ever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> Do not follow other gods to serve them and to worship them, and do not

provoke Me to anger by the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.

<sup>7</sup> "'But you would not obey Me'--this is the LORD's declaration--'in order that you might provoke Me to anger by the work of your hands and bring disaster on yourselves.'

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'Because you have not obeyed My words,

<sup>9</sup> I am going to send for all the families of the north'--this is the LORD's declaration--'and send for My servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will bring them against this land, against its residents, and against all these surrounding nations, and I will completely destroy them and make them a desolation, a derision, and ruins forever.

<sup>10</sup> I will eliminate the sound of joy and gladness from them--the voice of the

bridegroom and the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

<sup>11</sup> This whole land will become a desolate ruin, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon for 70 years.

<sup>12</sup> When the 70 years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation'--this is the LORD's declaration--'the land of the Chaldeans, for their guilt, and I will make it a ruin forever.

<sup>13</sup> I will bring on that land all My words I have spoken against it, all that is written in this book that Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations.

<sup>14</sup> For many nations and great kings will enslave them, and I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands."

<sup>15</sup> This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take this cup of the wine of wrath from My hand and make

all the nations I am sending you to drink from it.

<sup>16</sup> They will drink, stagger, and go out of their minds because of the sword I am sending among them."

<sup>17</sup> So I took the cup from the LORD's hand and made all the nations drink from it , everyone the LORD sent me to.

<sup>18</sup> These included: Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah, its kings and its officials, to make them a desolate ruin, an object of scorn and cursing--as it is today;

<sup>19</sup> Pharaoh king of Egypt, his officers, his leaders, all his people,

<sup>20</sup> and all the mixed peoples;all the kings of the land of Uz;all the kings of the land of the Philistines--Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod;

<sup>21</sup> Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites;

<sup>22</sup> all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastlands across the sea;

<sup>23</sup> Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all those who shave their temples;

<sup>24</sup> all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mixed peoples who have settled 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, both near and far from one another; that is, all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. Finally, the king of Sheshach will drink after them.

<sup>27</sup> "Then you are to say to them: This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Drink, get drunk, and vomit. Fall down and never get up again, as a result of the sword I am sending among you.

<sup>28</sup> If they refuse to take the cup from you and drink, you are to say to them: This is what the LORD of Hosts says: You must drink!

<sup>29</sup> For I am already bringing disaster on the city that bears My name, so how could you possibly go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth"--this is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>30</sup> "As for you, you are to prophesy all these things to them, and say to them: The LORD roars from on high; He raises His voice from His holy dwelling. He roars loudly over His grazing land; He calls out with a shout, like those who tread grapes , against all the inhabitants of the earth.

<sup>31</sup> The tumult reaches to the ends of the earth because the LORD brings a case against the nations. He enters



into judgment with all flesh. As for the wicked, He hands them over to the sword--This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>32</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Pay attention! Disaster goes forth from nation to nation. A great storm is stirred up from the ends of the earth."

<sup>33</sup> Those slain by the LORD on that day will be spread from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned, gathered, or buried. They will be like manure on the surface of the ground.

<sup>34</sup> Wail, you shepherds, and cry out. Roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock. Because the days of your slaughter have come, you will fall and become shattered like a precious vase.

<sup>35</sup> Flight will be impossible for the shepherds, and escape, for the leaders of the flock.

<sup>36</sup> Hear the sound of the shepherds' cry, the wail of the leaders of the flock, for the LORD is destroying their pasture.

<sup>37</sup> Peaceful grazing land will become lifeless because of the LORD's burning anger.

<sup>38</sup> He has left His den like a lion, for their land has become a desolation because of the sword of the oppressor, because of His burning anger.

**26** <sup>1</sup> At the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD says: Stand in the courtyard of the LORD's temple and speak all the words I have commanded you to speak to all Judah's cities that are coming to worship there. Do not hold back a word.

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps they will listen and return--each from his evil way of life--so that I might relent concerning the disaster that

I plan to do to them because of the evil of their deeds.

<sup>4</sup> You are to say to them: This is what the LORD says: If you do not listen to Me by living according to My law that I set before you

<sup>5</sup> and by listening to the words of My servants the prophets I have been sending you time and time again, though you did not listen,

<sup>6</sup> I will make this temple like Shiloh. I will make this city an object of cursing for all the nations of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> The priests, the prophets, and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the temple of the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> He finished the address the LORD had commanded him to deliver to all the people. Then the priests, the prophets, and all the people took hold of him, yelling, "You must surely die!

<sup>9</sup> How dare you prophesy in the name of the LORD, 'This temple will become like Shiloh and this city will become an uninhabited ruin'!" Then all the people assembled against Jeremiah at the LORD's temple.

<sup>10</sup> When the officials of Judah heard these things, they went up from the king's palace to the LORD's temple and sat at the entrance of the New Gate.

<sup>11</sup> Then the priests and prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man deserves the death sentence because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

<sup>12</sup> Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and the people, "The LORD sent me to prophesy all the words that you have heard against this temple and city.

<sup>13</sup> So now, correct your ways and deeds and obey the voice of the LORD your

God so that He might relent concerning the disaster that He warned about.

<sup>14</sup> As for me, here I am in your hands; do to me what you think is good and right.

<sup>15</sup> But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its residents, for it is certain the LORD has sent me to speak all these things directly to you."

<sup>16</sup> Then the officials and all the people told the priests and prophets, "This man doesn't deserve the death sentence, for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God!"

<sup>17</sup> Some of the elders of the land stood up and said to all the assembled people,

<sup>18</sup> "Micah the Moreshite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah and said to all the people of Judah, 'This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Zion will

be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become ruins, and the temple mount a forested hill.'

<sup>19</sup> Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all the people of Judah put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and plead for the LORD's favor, and did not the LORD relent concerning the disaster He had pronounced against them? We are about to bring great harm on ourselves!"

<sup>20</sup> Another man was also prophesying in the name of the LORD--Uriah son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim. He prophesied against this city and against this land in words like all those of Jeremiah.

<sup>21</sup> King Jehoiakim, all his warriors, and all the officials heard his words, and the king tried to put him to death. When Uriah heard, he fled in fear and went to Egypt.

<sup>22</sup> But King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt: Elnathan son of Achbor and certain other men with him went to Egypt.

<sup>23</sup> They brought Uriah out of Egypt and took him to King Jehoiakim, who executed him with the sword and threw his corpse into the burial place of the common people.

<sup>24</sup> But Ahikam son of Shaphan supported Jeremiah, so he was not handed over to the people to be put to death.

**27** <sup>1</sup> At the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD said to me: Make fetters and yoke bars for yourself and put them on your neck.

<sup>3</sup> Send word to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the

Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon through messengers who are coming to Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> Command them to go to their masters, saying: This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: This is what you must say to your masters:

<sup>5</sup> By My great strength and outstretched arm, I made the earth, and the people, and animals on the face of the earth. I give it to anyone I please.

<sup>6</sup> So now I have placed all these lands under the authority of My servant Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. I have even given him the wild animals to serve him.

<sup>7</sup> All nations will serve him, his son, and his grandson until the time for his own land comes, and then many nations and great kings will enslave him.



<sup>8</sup> "As for the nation or kingdom that does not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and does not place its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish by sword, famine, and plague"--this is the LORD's declaration--"until through him I have destroyed it.

<sup>9</sup> But as for you, do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your fortune-tellers, or your sorcerers who say to you: Don't serve the king of Babylon!

<sup>10</sup> for they prophesy a lie to you so that you will be removed from your land. I will banish you, and you will perish.

<sup>11</sup> But as for the nation that will put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave it in its own land, and that nation will till it and reside in it." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>12</sup> I spoke to Zedekiah king of Judah in the same way: "Put your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, serve him and his people, and live!

<sup>13</sup> Why should you and your people die by the sword, famine, or plague as the LORD has threatened against any nation that does not serve the king of Babylon?

<sup>14</sup> Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are telling you, 'You must not serve the king of Babylon,' for they are prophesying a lie to you.

<sup>15</sup> 'I have not sent them'--this is the LORD's declaration--'and they are prophesying falsely in My name; therefore, I will banish you, and you will perish--you and the prophets who are prophesying to you.'"

<sup>16</sup> Then I spoke to the priests and all these people, saying, "This is what the LORD says, 'Do not listen to the words of your prophets. They are prophesying

to you, claiming: Look, very soon now the articles of the LORD's temple will be brought back from Babylon. They are prophesying a lie to you.

<sup>17</sup> Do not listen to them. Serve the king of Babylon and live! Why should this city become a ruin?

<sup>18</sup> If they are indeed prophets and if the word of the LORD is with them, let them intercede with the LORD of Hosts not to let the articles that remain in the LORD's temple, in the palace of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem go to Babylon.'

<sup>19</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts says about the pillars, the sea, the water carts, and the rest of the articles that still remain in this city,

<sup>20</sup> those Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take when he deported Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babylon along with all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>21</sup> Yes, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says about the articles that remain in the temple of the LORD, in the palace of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem:

<sup>22</sup> 'They will be brought to Babylon and will remain there until I attend to them again.' This is the LORD's declaration. 'Then I will bring them up 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, the prophet Hananiah son of Azzur from Gibeon said to me in the temple of the LORD in the presence of the priests and all the people,

<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

<sup>3</sup> Within two years I will restore to this place all the articles of the LORD's temple that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took from here and transported to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> And I will restore to this place Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon'--this is the LORD's declaration--'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"

<sup>5</sup> The prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the temple of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> The prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so. May the LORD make the words you have prophesied come true and may He restore the articles of the LORD's temple and all the exiles from Babylon to this place!

<sup>7</sup> Only listen to this message I am speaking 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, disaster, and plague against many lands and great kingdoms.

<sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace--only when the word of the prophet comes true will the prophet be recognized as one whom the LORD has truly sent."

<sup>10</sup> The prophet Hananiah then took the yoke bar from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke it.

<sup>11</sup> In the presence of all the people Hananiah proclaimed, "This is what the LORD says: 'In this way, within two years I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, from the neck of all the nations.'" Jeremiah the prophet then went on his way.

<sup>12</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke bar from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>13</sup> "Go say to Hananiah: This is what the LORD says: You broke a wooden yoke bar, but in its place you will make an iron yoke bar.

<sup>14</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I have put an iron yoke on the neck of all these nations that they might serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him. I have also put the wild animals under him."

<sup>15</sup> The prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah! The LORD did not send you, but you have led these people to trust in a lie.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: 'I am about to send you off the face of the earth. You will die this year because

you have spoken rebellion against the LORD."

<sup>17</sup> And the prophet Hananiah died that year in the seventh month.

**29** <sup>1</sup> This is the text of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exiles, the priests, the prophets, and all the people Nebuchadnezzar had deported from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>2</sup> This was after King Jeconiah, the queen mother, the court officials, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metalsmiths had left Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> The letter was sent by Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah whom Zedekiah king of Judah had sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. The letter stated:



<sup>4</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles I deported 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 to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease.

<sup>7</sup> Seek the welfare of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for when it has prosperity, you will prosper."

<sup>8</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "Don't let your prophets who are among you and your diviners deceive you, and don't listen to the dreams you elicit from them,

<sup>9</sup> for they are prophesying falsely to you in My name. I have not sent them." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>10</sup> For this is what the LORD says: "When 70 years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm My promise concerning you to restore you to this place.

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you"--this is the LORD's declaration--"plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

<sup>12</sup> You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

<sup>13</sup> You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you"--the LORD's declaration--"and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you"--the LORD's declaration. "I will

restore you to the place I deported you from."

<sup>15</sup> You have said, "The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon!"

<sup>16</sup> But this is what the LORD says concerning the king sitting on David's throne and concerning all the people living in this city--that is, concerning your brothers who did not go with you into exile.

<sup>17</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "I am about to send against them sword, famine, and plague and will make them like rotten figs that are inedible because they are so bad.

<sup>18</sup> I will pursue them with sword, famine, and plague. I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth--a curse and a desolation, an object of scorn and a disgrace among all the nations where I will have banished them.

<sup>19</sup> I will do this because they have not listened to My words"--this is the LORD's declaration--"that I sent to them with My servants the prophets time and time again. And you too have not listened." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>20</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>21</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says to Ahab son of Kolaiah and to Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, the ones prophesying a lie to you in My name: "I am about to hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will kill them before your very eyes.

<sup>22</sup> Based on what happens to them, all the exiles of Judah who are in Babylon will create a curse that says: May the LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire!

<sup>23</sup> because they have committed an outrage in Israel by committing adultery with their neighbors' wives and have spoken a lie in My name, which I did not command them. I am He who knows, and I am a witness." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>24</sup> To Shemaiah the Nehelamite you are to say,

<sup>25</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: You in your own name have sent out letters to all the people of Jerusalem, to the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, and to all the priests, saying:

<sup>26</sup> The LORD has appointed you priest in place of Jehoiada the priest to be the chief officer in the temple of the LORD, responsible for every madman who acts like a prophet. You must confine him in stocks and an iron collar.

<sup>27</sup> So now, why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who has been acting like a prophet among you?

<sup>28</sup> For he has sent word to us in Babylon, claiming: The exile will be long. Build houses and settle down. 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 a message to all the exiles, saying: This is what the LORD says concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite. Because Shemaiah prophesied to you, though I did not send him, and made you trust a lie,

<sup>32</sup> this is what the LORD says: I am about to punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his descendants. There will not be even one of his descendants living among these people, nor will any ever see the

good that I will bring to My people"--this is the LORD's declaration--"for he has preached rebellion against the LORD."

**30** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "Write down on a scroll all the words that I have spoken to you,

<sup>3</sup> for the days are certainly coming"--this is the LORD's declaration--"when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah"--the LORD's declaration. "I will restore them to the land I gave to their ancestors and they will possess it."

<sup>4</sup> These are the words the LORD spoke to Israel and Judah.

<sup>5</sup> Yes, this is what the LORD says: We have heard a cry of terror, of dread--there is no peace.

<sup>6</sup> Ask and see whether a male can give birth. Why then do I see every man with

his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor and every face turned pale?

<sup>7</sup> How awful that day will be! There will be none like it! It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be delivered out of it.

<sup>8</sup> "On that day"--this is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"I will break his yoke from your neck and snap your fetters so strangers will never again enslave him.

<sup>9</sup> They will serve the LORD their God and I will raise up David their king for them."

<sup>10</sup> As for you, My servant Jacob, do not be afraid--this is the LORD's declaration--and do not be dismayed, Israel, for I will without fail save you from far away, your descendants, from the land of their captivity! Jacob will return and have calm and quiet with no one to frighten him.



<sup>11</sup> For I will be with you--this is the LORD's declaration--to save you! I will bring destruction on all the nations where I have scattered you; however, I will not bring destruction on you. I will discipline you justly, but I will by no means leave you unpunished.

<sup>12</sup> For this is what the LORD says: Your injury is incurable; your wound most severe.

<sup>13</sup> No one takes up the case for your sores. You have nothing that can heal you.

<sup>14</sup> All your lovers have forgotten you; they no longer look for you, for I have struck you like an enemy would, with the discipline of someone cruel, because of your enormous guilt and your innumerable sins.

<sup>15</sup> Why do you cry out about your injury? Your pain has no cure! I have done these things to you because of your

enormous guilt and your innumerable sins.

<sup>16</sup> Nevertheless, all who devoured you will be devoured, and all your adversaries--all of them--will go off into exile. Your despoilers will become spoil, and all who plunder you will be plundered.

<sup>17</sup> But I will bring you health and will heal you of your wounds--this is the LORD's declaration--for they call you The Outcast, that Zion no one cares about.

<sup>18</sup> This is what the LORD says: I will certainly restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and show compassion on his dwellings. Every city will be rebuilt on its mound; every citadel will stand on its proper site.

<sup>19</sup> Thanksgiving will come out of them, a sound of celebration. I will multiply them, and they will not decrease; I

will honor them, and they will not be insignificant.

<sup>20</sup> His children will be as in past days; his congregation will be established in My presence. I will punish all his oppressors.

<sup>21</sup> Jacob's leader will be one of them; his ruler will issue from him. I will invite him to Me, and he will approach Me, for who would otherwise risk his life to approach Me? This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>22</sup> You will be My people, and I will be your God.

<sup>23</sup> Look, a storm from the LORD! Wrath has gone forth. A churning storm, it will whirl about the head of the wicked.

<sup>24</sup> The LORD's burning anger will not turn back until He has completely fulfilled the purposes of His heart. In time to come you will understand it.

**31** <sup>1</sup> "At that time"--this is the LORD's declaration--"I will be God of all

the families of Israel, and they will be My people."

<sup>2</sup> This is what the LORD says: They found favor in the wilderness--the people who survived the sword. When Israel went to find rest,

<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you.

<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you so that you will be rebuilt, Virgin Israel. You will take up your tambourines again and go forth in joyful dancing.

<sup>5</sup> You will plant vineyards again on the mountains of Samaria; the planters will plant and will enjoy the fruit .

<sup>6</sup> For there will be a day when watchmen will call out in the hill country of Ephraim: Get up, let's go up to Zion, to the LORD our God!

<sup>7</sup> For this is what the LORD says: Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the chief of the nations! Proclaim, praise, and say: LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!

<sup>8</sup> Watch! I am going to bring them from the northern land. I will gather them from remote regions of the earth--the blind and the lame will be with them, along with those who are pregnant and those about to give birth. They will return here as a great assembly!

<sup>9</sup> They will come weeping, but I will bring them back with consolation. I will lead them to wadis filled with water by a smooth way where they will not stumble, for I am Israel's Father, and Ephraim is My firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Nations, hear the word of the LORD, and tell it among the far off coastlands! Say: The One who scattered Israel will

gather him. He will watch over him as a shepherd guards his flock,

<sup>11</sup> for the LORD has ransomed Jacob and redeemed him from the power of one stronger than he.

<sup>12</sup> They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will be radiant with joy because of the LORD's goodness, because of the grain, the new wine, the fresh oil, and because of the young of the flocks and herds. Their life will be like an irrigated garden, and they will no longer grow weak from hunger .

<sup>13</sup> Then the virgin will rejoice with dancing, while young and old men rejoice together. I will turn their mourning into joy, give them consolation, and bring happiness out of grief.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill with abundance, and My people will be

satisfied with My goodness. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>15</sup> This is what the LORD says: A voice was heard in Ramah, a lament with bitter weeping--Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children because they are no more.

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says: Keep your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for the reward for your work will come--this is the LORD's declaration--and your children will return from the enemy's land.

<sup>17</sup> There is hope for your future--this is the LORD's declaration--and your children will return to their own territory.

<sup>18</sup> I have heard Ephraim moaning: You disciplined me, and I have been disciplined like an untrained calf. Restore me, and I will return, for you, LORD, are my God.

<sup>19</sup> After I returned, I repented; After I was instructed, I struck my thigh in grief . I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth.

<sup>20</sup> Isn't Ephraim a precious son to Me, a delightful child? Whenever I speak against him, I certainly still think about him. Therefore, My inner being yearns for him; I will truly have compassion on him. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>21</sup> Set up road markers for yourself; establish signposts! Keep the highway in mind, the way you have traveled. Return, Virgin Israel! Return to these cities of yours.

<sup>22</sup> How long will you turn here and there, faithless daughter? For the LORD creates something new in the land--a female will shelter a man.

<sup>23</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "When I restore their fortunes, they will once again speak



this word in the land of Judah and in its cities: May the LORD bless you, righteous settlement, holy mountain.

<sup>24</sup> Judah and all its cities will live in it together--also farmers and those who move with the flocks--

<sup>25</sup> for I satisfy the thirsty person and feed all those who are weak."

<sup>26</sup> At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been most pleasant to me.

<sup>27</sup> "The days are coming"--this is the LORD's declaration--"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> Just as I watched over them to uproot and to tear them down, to demolish and to destroy, and to cause disaster, so will I be attentive to build and to plant them," says the LORD.

<sup>29</sup> "In those days, it will never again be said: The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.

<sup>30</sup> Rather, each will die for his own wrongdoing. Anyone who eats sour grapes--his own teeth will be set on edge.

<sup>31</sup> "Look, the days are coming"--this is the LORD's declaration--"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant they broke even though I had married them"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>33</sup> "Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days"--the LORD's declaration. "I will place My law within them and write it

on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

<sup>34</sup> No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying: Know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest of them"--the LORD's declaration. "For I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sin."

<sup>35</sup> This is what the LORD says: The One who gives the sun for light by day, the fixed order of moon and stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea and makes its waves roar--the LORD of Hosts is His name:

<sup>36</sup> If this fixed order departs from My presence--this is the LORD's declaration--then also Israel's descendants will cease to be a nation before Me forever.

<sup>37</sup> This is what the LORD says: If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below explored,

I will reject all of Israel's descendants because of all they have done--this is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>38</sup> "Look, the days are coming"--the LORD's declaration--"when the city from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate will be rebuilt for the LORD.

<sup>39</sup> A measuring line will once again stretch out straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn toward Goah.

<sup>40</sup> The whole valley--the corpses, the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Kidron Valley to the corner of the Horse Gate to the east--will be holy to the LORD. It will never be uprooted or demolished again."

**32** <sup>1</sup> This is 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 imprisoned in the guard's courtyard in the palace of the king of Judah.

<sup>3</sup> Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying: "Why are you prophesying, 'This is what the LORD says: Look, I am about to hand this city over to Babylon's king, and he will capture it.

<sup>4</sup> Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape from the Chaldeans; indeed, he will certainly be handed over to Babylon's king. They will speak face to face and meet eye to eye.

<sup>5</sup> He will take Zedekiah to Babylon where he will stay until I attend to him'--this is the LORD's declaration. 'You will fight the Chaldeans, but you will not succeed'?"

<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah replied, "The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>7</sup> 'Watch! Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, is coming to you to say: Buy my field in Anathoth for yourself, for you own the right of redemption to buy it.'

<sup>8</sup> "Then my cousin Hanamel came to the guard's courtyard as the LORD had said and urged me, 'Please buy my field in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you own the right of inheritance and redemption. Buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and I weighed out to him the money--17 shekels of silver.

<sup>10</sup> I recorded it on a scroll, sealed it, called in witnesses, and weighed out the silver on a scale.

<sup>11</sup> I took the purchase agreement--the sealed copy with its terms and conditions and the open copy--

<sup>12</sup> and gave the purchase agreement to Baruch son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah. I did this in the sight of my cousin Hanamel, the witnesses who were signing the purchase agreement, and all the Judeans sitting in the guard's courtyard.

<sup>13</sup> "I instructed Baruch in their sight,

<sup>14</sup> 'This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Take these scrolls--this purchase agreement with the sealed copy and this open copy--and put them in an earthen storage jar so they will last a long time.

<sup>15</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land.'

<sup>16</sup> "After I had given the purchase agreement to Baruch, son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD:

<sup>17</sup> Ah, Lord GOD! You Yourself made the heavens and earth by Your great power and with Your outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for You!

<sup>18</sup> You show faithful love to thousands but lay the fathers' sins on their sons' laps after them, great and mighty God whose name is the LORD of Hosts,

<sup>19</sup> the One great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are on all the ways of the sons of men in order to give to each person according to his ways and the result of his deeds.

<sup>20</sup> You performed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt and do so to this very day both in Israel and among mankind. You made a name for Yourself, as is the case today.

<sup>21</sup> You brought Your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror.



<sup>22</sup> You gave them this land You swore to give to their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>23</sup> They entered and possessed it, but they did not obey Your voice or live according to Your law. They failed to perform all You commanded them to do, and so You have brought all this disaster on them.

<sup>24</sup> Look! Siege ramps have come against the city to capture it, and the city, as a result of the sword, famine, and plague, has been handed over to the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What You have spoken has happened. Look, You can see it!

<sup>25</sup> Yet You, Lord GOD, have said to me: Buy the field with silver and call in witnesses--even though the city has been handed over to the Chaldeans!"

<sup>26</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>27</sup> "Look, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for Me?

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I am about to hand this city over to the Chaldeans, to Babylon's king Nebuchadnezzar, and he will capture it.

<sup>29</sup> The Chaldeans who are going to fight against this city will come, set this city on fire, and burn it along with the houses where incense has been burned to Baal on their rooftops and where drink offerings have been poured out to other gods to provoke Me to anger.

<sup>30</sup> From their youth, the Israelites and Judeans have done nothing but what is evil in My sight! They have done nothing but provoke Me to anger by the work of their hands"--this is the LORD's declaration--

<sup>31</sup> "for this city has been up against My wrath and fury from the day it was built

until now. I will therefore remove it from My presence,

<sup>32</sup> because of all the evil the Israelites and Judeans have done to provoke Me to anger--they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets, the men of Judah, and the residents of Jerusalem.

<sup>33</sup> They have turned their backs to Me and not their faces. Though I taught them time and time again, they do not listen and receive discipline.

<sup>34</sup> They have placed their detestable things in the house that is called by My name and have defiled it.

<sup>35</sup> They have built the high places of Baal in the Valley of Hinnom to make their sons and daughters pass through the fire to Molech--something I had not commanded them. I had never entertained the thought that they do this detestable act causing Judah to sin!

<sup>36</sup> "Now therefore, this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to this city about which you said: It has been handed over to Babylon's king through sword, famine, and plague:

<sup>37</sup> I am about to gather them from all the lands where I have banished them in My wrath, rage, and great fury, and I will return them to this place and make them live in safety.

<sup>38</sup> They will be My people, and I will be their God.

<sup>39</sup> I will give them one heart and one way so that for their good and for the good of their descendants after them, they will fear Me always.

<sup>40</sup> "I will make with them an everlasting covenant: I will never turn away from doing good to them, and I will put fear of Me in their hearts so they will never again turn away from Me.

<sup>41</sup> I will rejoice over them to do what is good to them, and I will plant them faithfully in this land with all My mind and heart.

<sup>42</sup> "For this is what the LORD says: Just as I have brought all this great disaster on these people, so am I about to bring on them all the good I am promising them.

<sup>43</sup> Fields will be bought in this land about which you are saying: It's a desolation without man or beast; it has been handed over to the Chaldeans!

<sup>44</sup> Fields will be purchased with silver, the transaction written on a scroll and sealed, and witnesses will be called on in the land of Benjamin, in the areas surrounding Jerusalem, and in Judah's cities--the cities of the hill country, the cities of the Judean foothills, and the cities of the Negev--because I will

restore their fortunes." This is the LORD's declaration.

**33** <sup>1</sup> While he was still confined in the guard's courtyard, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time:

<sup>2</sup> "The LORD who made the earth, the LORD who forms it to establish it, the LORD is His name, says this:

<sup>3</sup> Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and wondrous things you do not know.

<sup>4</sup> For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the houses of this city and the palaces of Judah's kings, the ones torn down for defense against the siege ramps and the sword:

<sup>5</sup> The people coming to fight the Chaldeans will fill the houses with the corpses of their own men I strike down in My wrath and rage. I have hidden My

face from this city because of all their evil.

<sup>6</sup> Yet I will certainly bring health and healing to it and will indeed heal them. I will let them experience the abundance of peace and truth.

<sup>7</sup> I will restore the fortunes of Judah and of Israel and will rebuild them as in former times.

<sup>8</sup> I will purify them from all the wrongs they have committed against Me, and I will forgive all the wrongs they have committed against Me, rebelling against Me.

<sup>9</sup> This city will bear on My behalf a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, who will hear of all the good I will do for them. They will tremble with awe because of all the good and all the peace I will bring about for them.

<sup>10</sup> "This is what the LORD says: In this place which you say is a ruin, without man or beast--that is, in Judah's cities and Jerusalem's streets that are a desolation without man, without inhabitant, and without beast--there will be heard again

<sup>11</sup> a sound of joy and gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the bride, and the voice of those saying, Praise the LORD of Hosts, for the LORD is good; His faithful love endures forever as they bring thank offerings to the temple of the LORD. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as in former times, says the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts says: In this desolate place--without man or beast--and in all its cities there will once more be a grazing land where shepherds may rest flocks.



<sup>13</sup> The flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who counts them in the cities of the hill country, the cities of the Judean foothills, the cities of the Negev, the land of Benjamin--the cities surrounding Jerusalem and Judah's cities, says the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> "Look, the days are coming"--this is the LORD's declaration--"when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a Branch of righteousness to sprout up for David, and He will administer justice and righteousness in the land.

<sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely, and this is what she will be named: The LORD Is Our Righteousness.

<sup>17</sup> For this is what the LORD says: David will never fail to have a man sitting on the throne of the house of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> The Levitical priests will never fail to have a man always before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices."

<sup>19</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>20</sup> "This is what the LORD says: If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night so that day and night cease to come at their regular time,

<sup>21</sup> then also My covenant with My servant David may be broken so that he will not have a son reigning on his throne, and the Levitical priests will not be My ministers.

<sup>22</sup> The hosts of heaven cannot be counted; the sand of the sea cannot be measured. So, too, I will make

the descendants of My servant David and the Levites who minister to Me innumerable."

<sup>23</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>24</sup> "Have you not noticed what these people have said? They say: The LORD has rejected the two families He had chosen. My people are treated with contempt and no longer regarded as a nation among them.

<sup>25</sup> This is what the LORD says: If I do not keep My covenant with the day and with the night and fail to establish the fixed order of heaven and earth,

<sup>26</sup> then I might also reject the seed of Jacob and of My servant David--not taking from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Instead, I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them."

**34** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, all his army, all the earthly kingdoms under his control, and all other nations were fighting against Jerusalem and all its surrounding cities:

<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Go, speak to Zedekiah, king of Judah, and tell him: This is what the LORD says: I am about to hand this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will burn it down.

<sup>3</sup> As for you, you will not escape from his hand but are certain to be captured and handed over to him. You will meet the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak face to face; you will go to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> "Yet hear the LORD's word, Zedekiah, king of Judah. This is what the LORD says concerning you: You will not die by the sword;

<sup>5</sup> you will die peacefully. There will be a burning ceremony for you just like the burning ceremonies for your fathers, the former kings who preceded you. Alas, lord! will be the lament for you, for I have spoken this word." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>6</sup> So Jeremiah the prophet related all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem

<sup>7</sup> while the king of Babylon's army was attacking Jerusalem and all of Judah's remaining cities--against Lachish and Azekah, for only they were left among Judah's fortified cities.

<sup>8</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after King Zedekiah made a covenant with all the people who were in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom to them,

<sup>9</sup> so each man would free his male and female Hebrew slaves and no one enslave his Judean brother.

<sup>10</sup> All the officials and people who entered into covenant to free their male and female slaves--in order not to enslave them any longer--obeyed and freed them.

<sup>11</sup> Afterwards, however, they changed their minds and took back their male and female slaves they had freed and forced them to become slaves again .

<sup>12</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

<sup>13</sup> "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant with your ancestors when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery, saying:

<sup>14</sup> At the end of seven years, each of you must free his Hebrew brother who sold himself to you. He may serve you

six years, but then you must send him out free from you. But your ancestors did not obey Me or pay any attention.

<sup>15</sup> Today you repented and did what pleased Me, each of you proclaiming freedom for his neighbor. You made a covenant before Me at the temple called by My name.

<sup>16</sup> But you have changed your minds and profaned My name. Each has taken back his male and female slaves who had been freed to go wherever they wanted, and you have again subjugated them to be your slaves.

<sup>17</sup> "Therefore, this is what the LORD says: You have not obeyed Me by proclaiming freedom, each man for his brother and for his neighbor. I hereby proclaim freedom for you"--this is the LORD's declaration--"to the sword, to plague, and to famine! I will make you a horror to all the earth's kingdoms.

<sup>18</sup> As for those who disobeyed My covenant, not keeping the terms of the covenant they made before Me, I will treat them like the calf they cut in two in order to pass between its pieces.

<sup>19</sup> The officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the pieces of the calf

<sup>20</sup> will be handed over to their enemies, to those who want to take their life. Their corpses will become food for the birds of the sky and for the wild animals of the land.

<sup>21</sup> I will hand Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials over to their enemies, to those who want to take their life, to the king of Babylon's army that is withdrawing.

<sup>22</sup> I am about to give the command"--this is the LORD's declaration--"and I will bring them back to this city. They



will fight against it, capture it, and burn it down. I will make Judah's cities a desolation, without inhabitant."

**35** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah:

<sup>2</sup> "Go to the house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them to one of the chambers of the temple of the LORD to offer them a drink of wine."

<sup>3</sup> So I took Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, son of Habazziniah, and his brothers and all his sons--the entire house of the Rechabites--

<sup>4</sup> and I brought them into the temple of the LORD to a chamber occupied by the sons of Hanan son of Igdaliah, a man of God, who had a chamber near the officials' chamber, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah son of Shallum the doorkeeper.

<sup>5</sup> I set jars filled with wine and some cups before the sons of the house of the Rechabites and said to them, "Drink wine!"

<sup>6</sup> But they replied, "We do not drink wine, for Jonadab, son of our ancestor Rechab, commanded: 'You and your sons must never drink wine.'

<sup>7</sup> You must not build a house or sow seed or plant a vineyard. Those things are not for you. Rather, you must live in tents your whole life, so you may live a long time on the soil where you stay as a resident alien.'

<sup>8</sup> We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab, son of our ancestor Rechab, in all he commanded us. So we haven't drunk wine our whole life--we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters.

<sup>9</sup> We also have not built houses to live in and do not have vineyard, field, or seed.

<sup>10</sup> But we have lived in tents and have obeyed and done as our ancestor Jonadab commanded us.

<sup>11</sup> However, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched into the land, we said: Come, let's go into Jerusalem to get away from the Chaldean and Aramean armies. So we have been living in Jerusalem."

<sup>12</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>13</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Go, say to the men of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem: Will you not accept discipline by listening to My words?"--this is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>14</sup> "The words of Jonadab, son of Rechab, have been carried out. He commanded his sons not to drink wine, and they have not drunk to this very day because they have obeyed their

ancestor's command. But I have spoken to you time and time again, and you have not obeyed Me!

<sup>15</sup> Time and time again I have sent you all My servants the prophets, proclaiming: Turn, each one from his evil way of life, and correct your actions. Stop following other gods to serve them. Live in the land that I gave you and your ancestors. But you would not pay attention or obey Me.

<sup>16</sup> Yes, the sons of Jonadab son of Rechab carried out their ancestor's command he gave them, but these people have not obeyed Me.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD, the God of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I will certainly bring to Judah and to all the residents of Jerusalem all the disaster I have pronounced against them because I have spoken to them, but they have

not obeyed, and I have called to them, but they would not answer."

<sup>18</sup> Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites: "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'Because you have obeyed the command of your ancestor Jonadab and have kept all his commands and have done all that he commanded you,

<sup>19</sup> this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Jonadab son of Rechab will never fail to have a man to always stand before Me.'"

**36** <sup>1</sup> In the fourth year of Jehoiakim 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 I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah, and all the nations from the time I first spoke to you during Josiah's reign until today.

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps, when the house of Judah hears about all the disaster I am planning to bring on them, each one of them will turn from his evil way. Then I will forgive their wrongdoing and sin."

<sup>4</sup> So Jeremiah summoned Baruch son of Neriah. At Jeremiah's dictation, Baruch wrote on a scroll all the words the LORD had spoken to Jeremiah.

<sup>5</sup> Then Jeremiah commanded Baruch, "I am restricted; I cannot enter the temple of the LORD,

<sup>6</sup> so you must go and read from the scroll--which you wrote at my dictation--the words of the LORD in the hearing of the people at the temple of the LORD on a day of fasting. You must also read them in the hearing of all the Judeans who are coming from their cities.

<sup>7</sup> Perhaps their petition will come before the LORD, and each one will turn from his evil way, for the anger and fury

that the LORD has pronounced against this people are great."

<sup>8</sup> So Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet had commanded him. At the LORD's temple he read the LORD's words from the scroll.

<sup>9</sup> In the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people of Jerusalem and all those coming in from Judah's cities into Jerusalem proclaimed a fast before the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> Then at the LORD's temple, in the chamber of Gemariah son of Shaphan the scribe, in the upper courtyard at the opening of the New Gate of the LORD's temple, in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read Jeremiah's words from the scroll.

<sup>11</sup> When Micaiah son of Gemariah, son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll,

<sup>12</sup> he went down to the scribe's chamber in the king's palace. All the officials were sitting there--Elishama the scribe, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Achbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials.

<sup>13</sup> Micaiah reported to them all the words he had heard when Baruch read from the scroll in the hearing of the people.

<sup>14</sup> Then all the officials sent word to Baruch through Jehudi son of Nethaniah, son of Shelemiah, son of Cushi, saying, "Bring the scroll that you read in the hearing of the people, and come." So Baruch son of Neriah took the scroll and went to them.

<sup>15</sup> They said to him, "Sit down and read it in our hearing." So Baruch read it in their hearing.



<sup>16</sup> When they had heard all the words, they turned to each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must surely tell the king all these things."

<sup>17</sup> Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us--how did you write all these words? At his dictation?"

<sup>18</sup> Baruch said to them, "At his dictation. He recited all these words to me while I was writing on the scroll in ink."

<sup>19</sup> The officials said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah must hide yourselves and tell no one where you are."

<sup>20</sup> Then they came to the king at the courtyard, having deposited the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and reported everything in the hearing of the king.

<sup>21</sup> The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the scribe. Jehudi then read

it in the hearing of the king and all the officials who were standing by the king.

<sup>22</sup> Since it was the ninth month, the king was sitting in his winter quarters with a fire burning in front of him.

<sup>23</sup> As soon as Jehudi would read three or four columns, Jehoiakim would cut the scroll with a scribe's knife and throw the columns into the blazing fire until the entire scroll was consumed by the fire in the brazier.

<sup>24</sup> As they heard all these words, the king and all of his servants did not become terrified or tear their garments.

<sup>25</sup> Even though Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah had urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

<sup>26</sup> Then the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah son of Azriel, and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD had hidden them.

<sup>27</sup> After the king had burned the scroll with the words Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

<sup>28</sup> "Take another scroll, and once again write on it the very words that were on the original scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah burned.

<sup>29</sup> You are to proclaim concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: This is what the LORD says: You have burned the scroll, saying: Why have you written on it: The king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land and cause it to be without man or beast?

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to sit on David's throne, and his corpse will be thrown out to be exposed to the heat of day and the frost of night.

<sup>31</sup> I will punish him, his descendants, and his officers for their wrongdoing. I will bring on them, on the residents of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the disaster, which I warned them about but they did not listen."

<sup>32</sup> Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch son of Neriah, the scribe, and he wrote on it at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim, Judah's king, had burned in the fire. And many other words like them were added.

**37** <sup>1</sup> Zedekiah son of Josiah reigned as king in the land of Judah in place of Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made him king.

<sup>2</sup> He and his officers and the people of the land did not obey the words of the LORD that He spoke through Jeremiah the prophet.

<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, King Zedekiah sent Jehucal son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, the priest, to Jeremiah the prophet, requesting, "Please pray to the LORD our God for us!"

<sup>4</sup> Jeremiah was going about his daily tasks among the people, for they had not yet put him into the prison.

<sup>5</sup> Pharaoh's army had left Egypt, and when the Chaldeans, who were besieging Jerusalem, heard the report, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>7</sup> "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: This is what you will say to Judah's king, who is sending you to inquire of Me: Watch: Pharaoh's army, which has come out to help you, is going to return to its own land of Egypt.

<sup>8</sup> The Chaldeans will then return and fight against this city. They will capture it and burn it down.

<sup>9</sup> This is what the LORD says: Don't deceive yourselves by saying: The Chaldeans will leave us for good, for they will not leave.

<sup>10</sup> Indeed, if you were to strike down the entire Chaldean army that is fighting with you, and there remained among them only the badly wounded men, each in his tent, they would get up and burn this city down."

<sup>11</sup> When the Chaldean army withdrew from Jerusalem because of Pharaoh's army,

<sup>12</sup> Jeremiah started to leave Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to claim his portion there among the people.

<sup>13</sup> But when he was at the Benjamin Gate, an officer of the guard was there, whose name was Irijah son of Shelemiah,

son of Hananiah, and he apprehended Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "You are deserting to the Chaldeans."

<sup>14</sup> "That's a lie," Jeremiah replied. "I am not deserting to the Chaldeans!" Irijah would not listen to him but apprehended Jeremiah and took him to the officials.

<sup>15</sup> The officials were angry at Jeremiah and beat him and placed him in jail in the house of Jonathan the scribe, for it had been made into a prison.

<sup>16</sup> So Jeremiah went into a cell in the dungeon and stayed there many days.

<sup>17</sup> King Zedekiah later sent for him and received him, and in his house privately asked him, "Is there a word from the LORD?" "There is," Jeremiah responded, and he continued, "You will be handed over to the king of Babylon."

<sup>18</sup> Then Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, "How have I sinned against you or your

servants or these people that you have put me in prison?

<sup>19</sup> Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, claiming, 'The king of Babylon will not come against you and this land'?

<sup>20</sup> So now please listen, my lord the king. May my petition come before you. Don't send me back to the house of Jonathan the scribe, or I will die there."

<sup>21</sup> So King Zedekiah gave orders, and Jeremiah was placed in the guard's courtyard. He was given a loaf of bread each day from the baker's street until all the bread was gone from the city. So Jeremiah remained in the guard's courtyard.

**38** <sup>1</sup> Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malchijah heard the words Jeremiah was speaking to all the people:



<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD says: 'Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine, and plague, but whoever surrenders to the Chaldeans will live. He will keep his life like the spoils of war and will live.'

<sup>3</sup> This is what the LORD says: 'This city will most certainly be handed over to the king of Babylon's army, and he will capture it.'"

<sup>4</sup> The officials then said to the king, "This man ought to die, because he is weakening the morale of the warriors who remain in this city and of all the people by speaking to them in this way. This man is not seeking the well-being of this people, but disaster."

<sup>5</sup> King Zedekiah said, "Here he is; he's in your hands since the king can't do anything against you."

<sup>6</sup> So they took Jeremiah and dropped him into the cistern of Malchiah the

king's son, which was in the guard's courtyard, lowering Jeremiah with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

<sup>7</sup> But Ebed-melech, a Cushite court official employed in the king's palace, heard Jeremiah had been put into the cistern. While the king was sitting at the Benjamin Gate,

<sup>8</sup> Ebed-melech went from the king's palace and spoke to the king:

<sup>9</sup> "My lord king, these men have been evil in all they have done to Jeremiah the prophet. They have dropped him into the cistern where he will die from hunger, because there is no more bread in the city."

<sup>10</sup> So the king commanded Ebed-melech, the Cushite, "Take from here 30 men under your authority and pull Jeremiah the prophet up from the cistern before he dies."

<sup>11</sup> So Ebed-melech took the men under his authority and went to the king's palace to a place below the storehouse. From there he took old rags and worn-out clothes and lowered them by ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern.

<sup>12</sup> Ebed-melech the Cushite cried out to Jeremiah, "Place these old rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes." Jeremiah did so,

<sup>13</sup> and they pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the cistern, but he continued to stay in the guard's courtyard.

<sup>14</sup> King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and received him at the third entrance of the LORD's temple. The king said to Jeremiah, "I am going to ask you something; don't hide anything from me."

<sup>15</sup> Jeremiah replied to Zedekiah, "If I tell you, you will kill me, won't you? Besides,

if I give you advice, you won't listen to me anyway."

<sup>16</sup> King Zedekiah swore to Jeremiah in private, "As the LORD lives, who has given us this life, I will not kill you or hand you over to these men who want to take your life."

<sup>17</sup> Jeremiah therefore said to Zedekiah, "This is what the LORD, the God of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'If indeed you surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then you will live, this city will not be burned down, and you and your household will survive.'

<sup>18</sup> But if you do not surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then this city will be handed over to the Chaldeans. They will burn it down, and you yourself will not escape from them.'"

<sup>19</sup> But King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am worried about the Judeans who have

deserted to the Chaldeans. They may hand me over to them to abuse me."

<sup>20</sup> "They will not hand you over," Jeremiah replied. "Obey the voice of the LORD in what I am telling you, so it may go well for you and you can live.

<sup>21</sup> But if you refuse to surrender, this is the verdict that the LORD has shown me:

<sup>22</sup> 'All the women who remain in the palace of Judah's king will be brought out to the officials of the king of Babylon and will say: Your trusted friends misled you and overcame you. Your feet sank into the mire, and they deserted you.

<sup>23</sup> All your wives and sons will be brought out to the Chaldeans. You yourself will not escape from them, for you will be seized by the king of Babylon and this city will burn down.'"

<sup>24</sup> Then Zedekiah warned Jeremiah, "Don't let anyone know about these things or you will die.

<sup>25</sup> If the officials hear that I have spoken with you and come and demand of you, 'Tell us what you said to the king; don't hide anything from us and we won't kill you. Also, what did the king say to you?'

<sup>26</sup> then you will tell them, 'I was bringing before the king my petition that he not return me to the house of Jonathan to die there.'"

<sup>27</sup> When all the officials came to Jeremiah and questioned him, he reported the exact words to them the king had commanded, and they quit speaking with him because nothing had been heard.

<sup>28</sup> Jeremiah remained in the guard's courtyard until the day Jerusalem was captured, and he was there when it happened.

**39** <sup>1</sup> In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

advanced against Jerusalem with his entire army and laid siege to it.

<sup>2</sup> In the fourth month of Zedekiah's eleventh year, on the ninth day of the month, the city was broken into.

<sup>3</sup> All the officials of the king of Babylon entered and sat at the Middle Gate: Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer the Rab-mag, and all the rest of the officials of Babylon's king.

<sup>4</sup> When he saw them, Zedekiah king of Judah and all the soldiers fled. They left the city at night by way of the king's garden through the gate between the two walls. They left along the route to the Arabah.

<sup>5</sup> However, the Chaldean army pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, arrested him, and brought him to Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon's king, at Riblah in the land of

Hamath. The king passed sentence on him there .

<sup>6</sup> At Riblah the king of Babylon slaughtered Zedekiah's sons before his eyes, and he also slaughtered all Judah's nobles.

<sup>7</sup> Then he blinded Zedekiah and put him in bronze chains to take him to Babylon.

<sup>8</sup> The Chaldeans next burned down the king's palace and the people's houses and tore down the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>9</sup> Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, deported to Babylon the rest of the people--those who had remained in the city and those deserters who had defected to him along with the rest of the people who had remained.

<sup>10</sup> However, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, left in the land of Judah some of the poor people who owned nothing, and he gave them vineyards and fields at that time.



<sup>11</sup> Speaking through Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon gave orders concerning Jeremiah, saying:

<sup>12</sup> "Take him, look after him, and don't let any harm come to him; do for him whatever he says."

<sup>13</sup> Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, Nebushazban the Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer the Rab-mag, and all the captains of the king of Babylon

<sup>14</sup> had Jeremiah brought from the guard's courtyard and turned him over to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, to take him home. So he settled among his own people.

<sup>15</sup> Now the word of the LORD had come to Jeremiah when he was confined in the guard's courtyard:

<sup>16</sup> "Go tell Ebed-melech the Cushite: This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I am about to fulfill My

words for harm and not for good against this city. They will take place before your eyes on that day.

<sup>17</sup> But I will rescue you on that day"--this is the LORD's declaration--"and you will not be handed over to the men you fear.

<sup>18</sup> Indeed, I will certainly deliver you so that you do not fall by the sword. Because you have trusted in Me, you will keep your life like the spoils of war ." This is the LORD's declaration.

**40** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, released him at Ramah when he had been bound in chains with all the exiles 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 decreed this disaster on this place,

<sup>3</sup> and the LORD has fulfilled it . He has done just what He decreed. Because you people have sinned against the LORD and have not obeyed Him, this thing has happened.

<sup>4</sup> Now pay attention to what I say . Today I am setting you free from the chains that were on your hands. If it pleases you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will take care of you. But if it seems wrong to you to come with me to Babylon, go no farther. Look--the whole land is in front of you. Wherever it seems good and right for you to go, go there."

<sup>5</sup> When Jeremiah had not yet turned to go, Nebuzaradan said to him: "Return to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon has appointed over the cities of Judah, and stay with him among the people or go wherever you want to go." So the captain of the

guard gave him a ration and a gift and released him.

<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah therefore went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and he stayed with him among the people who remained in the land.

<sup>7</sup> When all the commanders of the armies in the field--they and their men--heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam over the land and that he had put him in charge of the men, women, and children, the poorest of the land who had not been deported to Babylon,

<sup>8</sup> they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah. The commanders included Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah son of the Maacathite--they and their men.

<sup>9</sup> Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, swore an oath to them and their men, assuring them, "Don't be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well for you.

<sup>10</sup> As for me, I am going to live in Mizpah to represent you before the Chaldeans who come to us. As for you, gather wine, summer fruit, and oil, place them in your storage jars, and live in the cities you have captured."

<sup>11</sup> When all the Judeans in Moab and among the Ammonites and in Edom and in all the other lands also heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, over them,

<sup>12</sup> they all returned from all the places where they had been banished and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at

Mizpah, and harvested a great amount of wine and summer fruit.

<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile, Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies in the field came to Gedaliah at Mizpah

<sup>14</sup> and warned him, "Don't you realize that Baalis, king of the Ammonites, has sent Ishmael son of Nethaniah to strike you down?" But Gedaliah son of Ahikam would not believe them.

<sup>15</sup> Then Johanan son of Kareah suggested to Gedaliah in private at Mizpah, "Let me go kill Ishmael son of Nethaniah. No one will know it. Why should he strike you down and scatter all of Judah that has gathered to you so that the remnant of Judah would perish?"

<sup>16</sup> But Gedaliah son of Ahikam responded to Johanan son of Kareah, "Don't do that! What you're saying about Ishmael is a lie."

**41** <sup>1</sup> In the seventh month, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family and one of the king's chief officers, came with 10 men to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah. They ate a meal together there in Mizpah,

<sup>2</sup> but then Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the 10 men who were with him got up and struck down Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, with the sword; he killed the one the king of Babylon had appointed in the land.

<sup>3</sup> Ishmael also struck down all the Judeans who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, as well as the Chaldean soldiers who were there.

<sup>4</sup> On the second day after he had killed Gedaliah, when no one knew yet ,

<sup>5</sup> 80 men came from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria who had shaved their beards, torn their garments, and gashed

themselves, and who were carrying grain and incense offerings to bring to the temple of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> Ishmael son of Nethaniah came out of Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he came. When he encountered them, he said: "Come to Gedaliah son of Ahikam!"

<sup>7</sup> But when they came into the city, Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the men with him slaughtered them and threw them into a cistern.

<sup>8</sup> However, there were 10 men among them who said to Ishmael, "Don't kill us, for we have hidden treasure in the field--wheat, barley, oil, and honey!" So he stopped and did not kill them along with their companions.

<sup>9</sup> Now the cistern where Ishmael had thrown all the corpses of the men he had struck down was a large one that King Asa had made in the encounter



with Baasha king of Israel. Ishmael son of Nethaniah filled it with the slain.

<sup>10</sup> Then Ishmael took captive all the remnant of the people of Mizpah including the daughters of the king--all those who remained in Mizpah over whom Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam. Ishmael son of Nethaniah took them captive and set off to cross over to the Ammonites.

<sup>11</sup> When Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies with him heard of all the evil that Ishmael son of Nethaniah had done,

<sup>12</sup> they took all their men and went to fight with Ishmael son of Nethaniah and found him by the great pool in Gibeon.

<sup>13</sup> When all the people with Ishmael saw Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the army with him, they rejoiced,

<sup>14</sup> and all the people whom Ishmael had taken captive from Mizpah turned around and rejoined Johanan son of Kareah.

<sup>15</sup> But Ishmael son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men and went to the Ammonites.

<sup>16</sup> Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies with him then took from Mizpah all the remnant of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael son of Nethaniah after Ishmael had killed Gedaliah son of Ahikam--men, soldiers, women, children, and court officials whom he brought back from Gibeon.

<sup>17</sup> They left, stopping in Geruth Chimham, which is near Bethlehem, in order to make their way into Egypt

<sup>18</sup> away from the Chaldeans. For they feared them because Ishmael son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah son

of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed in the land.

**42** <sup>1</sup> Then all the commanders of the armies, along with Johanan son of Kareah, Jazaniah son of Hoshai, and all the people from the least to the greatest, approached

<sup>2</sup> Jeremiah the prophet and said, "May our petition come before you; pray to the LORD your God on our behalf, on behalf of this entire remnant (for few of us remain out of the many, as you can see with your own eyes),

<sup>3</sup> that the LORD your God may tell us the way we should walk and the thing we should do."

<sup>4</sup> So Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard. I will now pray to the LORD your God according to your words, and every word that the LORD answers you I will tell you; I won't withhold a word from you."

<sup>5</sup> And they said to Jeremiah, "As for every word the LORD your God sends you to tell us, if we don't act accordingly, may the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us.

<sup>6</sup> Whether it is pleasant or unpleasant, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you so that it may go well with us. We will certainly obey the voice of the LORD our God!"

<sup>7</sup> Now at the end of 10 days, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah,

<sup>8</sup> and he summoned Johanan son of Kareah, all the commanders of the armies who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest.

<sup>9</sup> He said to them, "This is what the LORD says, the God of Israel to whom you sent me to bring your petition before Him:

<sup>10</sup> 'If you will indeed stay in this land, then I will rebuild and not demolish

you, and I will plant and not uproot you, because I relent concerning the disaster that I have brought on you.

<sup>11</sup> Don't be afraid of the king of Babylon whom you now fear; don't be afraid of him'--this is the LORD's declaration--'because I am with you to save you and deliver you from him.

<sup>12</sup> I will grant you compassion, and he will have compassion on you and allow you to return to your own soil.

<sup>13</sup> But if you say: We will not stay in this land, so as not to obey the voice of the LORD your God,

<sup>14</sup> and if you say: No, instead we'll go to the land of Egypt where we will not see war or hear the sound of the ram's horn or hunger for food, and we'll live there,

<sup>15</sup> then hear the word of the LORD, remnant of Judah! This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: If you

are firmly resolved to go to Egypt and live there for a while,

<sup>16</sup> then the sword you fear will overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine you are worried about will follow on your heels there to Egypt, and you will die there.

<sup>17</sup> All who resolve to go to Egypt to live there for a while will die by the sword, famine, and plague. They will have no survivor or escapee from the disaster I will bring on them.'

<sup>18</sup> "For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'Just as My anger and fury were poured out on Jerusalem's residents, so will My fury pour out on you if you go to Egypt. You will become an object of execration, scorn, cursing, and disgrace, and you will never see this place again.'

<sup>19</sup> The LORD has spoken concerning you, remnant of Judah: 'Don't go to

Egypt.' Know for certain that I have warned you today!

<sup>20</sup> You have led your own selves astray because you are the ones who sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray to the LORD our God on our behalf, and as for all that the LORD our God says, tell it to us, and we'll act accordingly.'

<sup>21</sup> For I have told you today, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God in everything He has sent me to tell you.

<sup>22</sup> Now therefore, know for certain that by the sword, famine, and plague you will die in the place where you desired to go to live for a while."

**43** <sup>1</sup> When Jeremiah had finished speaking to all the people all the words of the LORD their God--all these words the LORD their God had sent him to give them--

<sup>2</sup> then Azariah son of Hoshaiiah, Johanan son of Kareah, and all the other arrogant men responded to Jeremiah, "You are speaking a lie! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to live there for a while!'

<sup>3</sup> Rather, Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Chaldeans to put us to death or to deport us to Babylon!"

<sup>4</sup> So Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies did not obey the voice of the LORD to stay in the land of Judah.

<sup>5</sup> Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies took the whole remnant of Judah, those who had returned from all the nations where they had been banished to live in the land of Judah for a while--

<sup>6</sup> the men, women, children, king's daughters, and everyone whom



Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, had allowed to remain with Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan, along with Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah--

<sup>7</sup> and they went to the land of Egypt because they did not obey the voice of the LORD. They went as far as Tahpanhes.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah at Tahpanhes:

<sup>9</sup> "Pick up some large stones and set them in the mortar of the brick pavement that is at the opening of Pharaoh's palace at Tahpanhes. Do this in the sight of the Judean men

<sup>10</sup> and tell them: This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I will send for My servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will place his throne on these stones that I have

embedded, and he will pitch his pavilion over them.

<sup>11</sup> He will come and strike down the land of Egypt--those destined for death, to death; those destined for captivity, to captivity; and those destined for the sword, to the sword.

<sup>12</sup> I will kindle a fire in the temples of Egypt's gods, and he will burn them and take them prisoner. He will clean the land of Egypt as a shepherd picks lice off his garment, and he will leave there unscathed.

<sup>13</sup> He will smash the sacred pillars of the sun temple in the land of Egypt and burn down the temples of the Egyptian gods."

**44** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that came to Jeremiah for all the Jews living in the land of Egypt--at Migdol, Tahpanhes, Memphis, and in the land of Pathros:

<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: You have seen all the disaster I brought against Jerusalem and all Judah's cities; look, they are a ruin today without an inhabitant in them

<sup>3</sup> because of their evil ways that provoked Me to anger, going and burning incense to serve other gods they, you, and your fathers did not know.

<sup>4</sup> So I sent you all My servants the prophets time and time again, saying, Don't do this detestable thing that I hate.

<sup>5</sup> But they did not listen or pay attention; they did not turn from their evil or stop burning incense to other gods.

<sup>6</sup> So My fierce wrath poured forth and burned in Judah's cities and Jerusalem's streets so that they became the desolate ruin they are today.

<sup>7</sup> "So now, this is what the LORD, the God of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:

Why are you doing such great harm to yourselves? You are cutting off man and woman, child and infant from Judah, leaving yourselves without a remnant.

<sup>8</sup> You are provoking Me to anger by the work of your hands. You are burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have gone to live for a while. As a result, you will be cut off and become an object of cursing and insult among all the nations of earth.

<sup>9</sup> Have you forgotten the evils of your fathers, the evils of Judah's kings, the evils of their wives, your own evils, and the evils of your wives that were committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

<sup>10</sup> They have not become humble to this day, and they have not feared or walked by My law or My statutes that I set before you and your ancestors.

<sup>11</sup> "Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I am about to turn against you to bring disaster, to cut off all Judah.

<sup>12</sup> And I will take away the remnant of Judah, those who have resolved to go to the land of Egypt to live there for a while; they will meet their end. All of them in the land of Egypt will fall by the sword; they will meet their end by famine. From the least to the greatest, they will die by the sword and by famine. Then they will become an object of execration, of scorn, of cursing, and of disgrace.

<sup>13</sup> I will punish those living in the land of Egypt just as I punished Jerusalem by sword, famine, and plague.

<sup>14</sup> Then the remnant of Judah--those going to live for a while there in the land of Egypt--will have no fugitive or survivor to return to the land of Judah where they are longing to return to live,

for they will not return except for a few fugitives."

<sup>15</sup> However, all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, all the women standing by--a great assembly--and all the people who were living in the land of Egypt at Pathros answered Jeremiah,

<sup>16</sup> "As for the word you spoke to us in the name of the LORD, we are not going to listen to you!

<sup>17</sup> Instead, we will do everything we said we would: burn incense to the queen of heaven and offer drink offerings to her just as we, our fathers, our kings, and our officials did in Judah's cities and in Jerusalem's streets. Then we had enough food and good things and saw no disaster,

<sup>18</sup> but from the time we ceased to burn incense to the queen of heaven and to offer her drink offerings, we have lacked

everything, and through sword and famine we have met our end."

<sup>19</sup> And the women said, "When we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, was it apart from our husbands' knowledge that we made sacrificial cakes in her image and poured out drink offerings to her?"

<sup>20</sup> But Jeremiah responded to all the people--the men, women, and all the people who were answering him--saying,

<sup>21</sup> "As for the incense you burned in Judah's cities and in Jerusalem's streets--you, your fathers, your kings, your officials, and the people of the land--did the LORD not remember them? He brought this to mind.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD can no longer bear your evil deeds and the detestable acts you have committed, so your land has become a waste, a desolation, and an

object of cursing, without inhabitant, as you see today.

<sup>23</sup> Because you burned incense and sinned against the LORD and didn't obey the LORD's voice and didn't walk in His law, His statutes, and His testimonies, this disaster has come to you, as you see today."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including all the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt.

<sup>25</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'As for you and your wives, you women have spoken with your mouths, and you men fulfilled it by your deeds, saying: We will keep our vows we have made to burn incense to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings for her. Go ahead, confirm your vows! Pay your vows!'



<sup>26</sup> "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD, all you Judeans who live in the land of Egypt: 'I have sworn by My great name, says the LORD, that My name will never again be invoked by anyone of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, As the Lord GOD lives.

<sup>27</sup> I am watching over them for disaster and not for good, and every man of Judah who is in the land of Egypt will meet his end by sword or famine until they are finished off.

<sup>28</sup> Those who escape the sword will return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah only few in number, and the whole remnant of Judah, the ones going to the land of Egypt to live there for a while, will know whose word stands, Mine or theirs!

<sup>29</sup> This will be a sign to you'--this is the LORD's declaration--'that I am about to punish you in this place, so you

may know that My words of disaster concerning you will certainly come to pass.

<sup>30</sup> This is what the LORD says: I am about to hand over Pharaoh Hophra, Egypt's king, to his enemies, to those who want to take his life, just as I handed over Judah's King Zedekiah to Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar, who was his enemy, the one who wanted to take his life.'"

**45** <sup>1</sup> This is the word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch son of Neriah when he wrote these words on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah:

<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch:

<sup>3</sup> 'You have said, Woe is me, because the LORD has added misery to my pain!

I am worn out with groaning and have found no rest.

<sup>4</sup> "This is what you are to say to him: This is what the LORD says: What I have built I am about to demolish, and what I have planted I am about to uproot--the whole land!

<sup>5</sup> But as for you, do you seek great things for yourself? Stop seeking! For I am about to bring disaster on every living creature'--this is the LORD's declaration--'but I will grant you your life like the spoils of war wherever you go.'"

**46** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet about the nations:

<sup>2</sup> About Egypt and the army of Pharaoh Neco, Egypt's king, which was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in the fourth year of Judah's King Jehoiakim son of Josiah:

<sup>3</sup> Deploy small shields and large; draw near for battle!

<sup>4</sup> Harness the horses; mount the steeds; take your positions with helmets on! Polish the lances; put on armor!

<sup>5</sup> Why have I seen this ? They are terrified, they are retreating, their warriors are crushed, they flee headlong, they never look back, terror is on every side! This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>6</sup> The swift cannot flee, and the warrior cannot escape! In the north by the bank of the Euphrates River, they stumble and fall.

<sup>7</sup> Who is this, rising like the Nile, like rivers whose waters churn?

<sup>8</sup> Egypt rises like the Nile, and its waters churn like rivers. He boasts: I will go up, I will cover the earth; I will destroy cities with their residents.

<sup>9</sup> Rise up, you cavalry! Race furiously, you chariots! Let the warriors go

forth--Cush and Put, who are able to handle shields, and the Ludim, who are able to handle and string the bow.

<sup>10</sup> That day belongs to the Lord, the GOD of Hosts, a day of vengeance to avenge Himself against His adversaries. The sword will devour and be satisfied; it will drink its fill of their blood, because it will be a sacrifice to the Lord, the GOD of Hosts, in the northern land by the Euphrates River.

<sup>11</sup> Go up to Gilead and get balm, Virgin Daughter Egypt! You have multiplied remedies in vain; there is no healing for you.

<sup>12</sup> The nations have heard of your dishonor, and your outcry fills the earth, because warrior stumbles against warrior and together both of them have fallen.

<sup>13</sup> This is the word the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming

of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to defeat the land of Egypt:

<sup>14</sup> Announce it in Egypt, and proclaim it in Migdol! Proclaim it in Memphis and in Tahpanhes! Say: Take positions! Prepare yourself, for the sword devours all around you.

<sup>15</sup> Why have your strong ones been swept away? Each has not stood, for the LORD has thrust him down.

<sup>16</sup> He continues to stumble. Indeed, each falls over the other. They say: Get up! Let's return to our people and to the land of our birth, away from the sword that oppresses.

<sup>17</sup> There they will cry out: Pharaoh king of Egypt was all noise; he let the opportune moment pass.

<sup>18</sup> As I live--this is the King's declaration; the LORD of Hosts is His name. He will come like Tabor among the mountains and like Carmel by the sea.

<sup>19</sup> Pack your bags for exile, inhabitant of Daughter Egypt! For Memphis will become a desolation, uninhabited ruins.

<sup>20</sup> Egypt is a beautiful young cow, but a horsefly from the north is coming against her.

<sup>21</sup> Even her mercenaries among her are like stall-fed calves. They too will turn back; together they will flee; they will not take their stand, for the day of their calamity is coming on them, the time of their punishment.

<sup>22</sup> Egypt will hiss like a slithering snake, for the enemy will come with an army; with axes they will come against her like those who cut trees.

<sup>23</sup> They will cut down her forest--this is the LORD's declaration--though it is dense, for they are more numerous than locusts; they cannot be counted.

<sup>24</sup> Daughter Egypt will be put to shame, handed over to a northern people.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to punish Amon, god of Thebes, along with Pharaoh, Egypt, her gods, and her kings--Pharaoh and those trusting in him.

<sup>26</sup> I will hand them over to those who want to take their lives--to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. But after this, it will be inhabited again as in ancient times." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>27</sup> But you, My servant Jacob, do not be afraid, and do not be discouraged, Israel, for without fail I will save you from far away and your descendants, from the land of their captivity! Jacob will return and have calm and quiet with no one to frighten him.

<sup>28</sup> And you, My servant Jacob, do not be afraid--this is the LORD's declaration--for I will be with you. I will bring destruction on all the nations where I have banished



you, but I will not bring destruction on you. I will discipline you with justice, but I will by no means leave you unpunished.

**47** <sup>1</sup> This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet about the Philistines before Pharaoh defeated Gaza.

<sup>2</sup> This is what the LORD says: Look, waters are rising from the north and becoming an overflowing wadi. They will overflow the land and everything in it, the cities and their inhabitants. The people will cry out, and every inhabitant of the land will wail.

<sup>3</sup> At the sound of the stomping hooves of his stallions, the rumbling of his chariots, and the clatter of their wheels, fathers will not turn back for their sons, because they will be utterly helpless

<sup>4</sup> on account of the day that is coming to destroy all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and Sidon every remaining ally.

Indeed, the LORD is about to destroy the Philistines, the remnant of the islands of Caphtor.

<sup>5</sup> Baldness is coming to Gaza. Ashkelon will become silent, a remnant of their valley. How long will you gash yourself?

<sup>6</sup> Ah, sword of the LORD! How long will you be restless? Go back to your scabbard; be still; be silent!

<sup>7</sup> How can it rest when the LORD has given it a command? He has assigned it against Ashkelon and the shore of the sea.

**48** <sup>1</sup> About Moab, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Woe to Nebo, because it is about to be destroyed; Kiriathaim will be put to shame; it will be taken captive. The fortress will be put to shame and dismayed!

<sup>2</sup> There is no longer praise for Moab; they plan harm against her in Heshbon:

Come, let's cut her off from nationhood.  
You madmen will also be silenced; the sword will pursue you.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out from Horonaim:  
devastation and great disaster!

<sup>4</sup> Moab will be shattered; her little ones will cry out.

<sup>5</sup> For on the ascent to Luhith they will be weeping continually, and on the descent to Horonaim will be heard cries of distress over the destruction:

<sup>6</sup> Flee! Save your lives! Be like a juniper bush in the wilderness.

<sup>7</sup> Because you trust in your works and treasures, you will be captured also. Chemosh will go into exile with his priests and officials.

<sup>8</sup> The destroyer will move against every town; not one town will escape. The valley will perish, and the plain will be annihilated, as the LORD has said.

<sup>9</sup> Make Moab a salt marsh, for she will run away; her towns will become a desolation, without inhabitant.

<sup>10</sup> Cursed is the one who does the LORD's business deceitfully, and cursed is the one who withholds his sword from bloodshed.

<sup>11</sup> Moab has been left quiet since his youth, settled like wine on its dregs. He hasn't been poured from one container to another or gone into exile. So his taste has remained the same, and his aroma hasn't changed.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore look, the days are coming--this is the LORD's declaration--when I will send those to him, who will pour him out. They will empty his containers and smash his jars.

<sup>13</sup> Moab will be put to shame because of Chemosh, just as the house of Israel was put to shame because of Bethel that they trusted in.

<sup>14</sup> How can you say, We are warriors--  
mighty men ready for battle?

<sup>15</sup> The destroyer of Moab and its towns  
has come up, and the best of its young  
men have gone down to slaughter. This  
is the King's declaration; the LORD of  
Hosts is His name.

<sup>16</sup> Moab's calamity is near at hand; his  
disaster is rushing swiftly.

<sup>17</sup> Mourn for him, all you surrounding  
nations , everyone who knows his  
name. Say: How the mighty scepter is  
shattered, the glorious staff!

<sup>18</sup> Come down from glory; sit on  
parched ground, resident of the  
daughter of Dibon, for the destroyer  
of Moab has come against you; he has  
destroyed your fortresses.

<sup>19</sup> Stand by the highway and look,  
resident of Aroer! Ask him who is fleeing  
or her who is escaping, What happened?

<sup>20</sup> Moab is put to shame, indeed dismayed. Wail and cry out! Declare by the Arnon that Moab is destroyed.

<sup>21</sup> "Judgment has come to the land of the plateau--to Holon, Jahzah, Mephaath,

<sup>22</sup> Dibon, Nebo, Beth-diblathaim,

<sup>23</sup> Kiriathaim, Beth-gamul, Beth-meon,

<sup>24</sup> Kerioth, Bozrah, and all the towns of the land of Moab, those far and near.

<sup>25</sup> Moab's horn is chopped off; his arm is shattered." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>26</sup> "Make him drunk, because he has exalted himself against the LORD. Moab will wallow in his own vomit, and he will also become a laughingstock.

<sup>27</sup> Wasn't Israel a laughingstock to you? Was he ever found among thieves? For whenever you speak of him you shake your head."

<sup>28</sup> Abandon the towns! Live in the cliffs, residents of Moab! Be like a dove that nests inside the mouth of a cave.

<sup>29</sup> We have heard of Moab's pride, great pride, indeed--his insolence, arrogance, pride, and haughty heart.

<sup>30</sup> I know his outburst. This is the LORD's declaration. It is empty. His boast is empty.

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, I will wail over Moab. I will cry out for Moab, all of it; he will moan for the men of Kir-heres.

<sup>32</sup> I will weep for you, vine of Sibmah, with more than the weeping for Jazer. Your tendrils have extended to the sea; they have reached to the sea and to Jazer. The destroyer has fallen on your summer fruit and grape harvest.

<sup>33</sup> Joy and celebration are taken from the fertile field and from the land of Moab. I have stopped the flow of wine from the winepresses; no one will tread

with shouts of joy. The shouting is not a shout of joy.

<sup>34</sup> "There is a cry from Heshbon to Elealeh; they raise their voices as far as Jahaz--from Zoar to Horonaim and Eglath-shelishiyah--because even the waters of Nimrim have become desolate.

<sup>35</sup> In Moab, I will stop"--this is the LORD's declaration--"the one who offers sacrifices on the high place and burns incense to his gods.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore, My heart moans like flutes for Moab, and My heart moans like flutes for the people of Kir-heres. And therefore, the wealth he has gained has perished.

<sup>37</sup> Indeed, every head is bald and every beard clipped; on every hand is a gash and sackcloth around the waist.

<sup>38</sup> On all the rooftops of Moab and in her public squares, everyone is mourning because I have shattered Moab like a



jar no one wants." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>39</sup> "How broken it is! They wail!  
How Moab has turned his back! He  
is ashamed. Moab will become a  
laughingstock and a shock to all those  
around him."

<sup>40</sup> For this is what the LORD says: He will  
swoop down like an eagle and spread his  
wings against Moab.

<sup>41</sup> The towns have been captured, and  
the strongholds seized. In that day the  
heart of Moab's warriors will be like the  
heart of a woman with contractions.

<sup>42</sup> Moab will be destroyed as a people  
because he has exalted himself against  
the LORD.

<sup>43</sup> Panic, pit, and trap await you,  
resident of Moab. This is the LORD's  
declaration.

<sup>44</sup> He who flees from the panic will  
fall in the pit, and he who climbs from

the pit will be captured in the trap, for I will bring against Moab the year of their punishment. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>45</sup> Those who flee will stand exhausted in Heshbon's shadow because fire has come out from Heshbon and a flame from within Sihon. It will devour Moab's forehead and the skull of the noisemakers.

<sup>46</sup> Woe to you, Moab! The people of Chemosh have perished because your sons have been taken captive and your daughters have gone into captivity.

<sup>47</sup> Yet, I will restore the fortunes of Moab in the last days. This is the LORD's declaration. The judgment on Moab ends here.

**49** <sup>1</sup> About the Ammonites, this is what the LORD says: Does Israel have no sons? Is he without an heir?

Why then has Milcom dispossessed Gad and his people settled in their cities?

<sup>2</sup> Therefore look, the days are coming--this is the LORD's declaration--when I will make the shout of battle heard against Rabbah of the Ammonites. It will become a desolate mound, and its villages will be burned down. Israel will dispossess their dispossessors, says the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> Wail, Heshbon, for Ai is devastated; cry out, daughters of Rabbah! Clothe yourselves with sackcloth, and lament; run back and forth within your walls, because Milcom will go into exile together with his priests and officials.

<sup>4</sup> Why do you brag about your valleys, your flowing valley, you faithless daughter? You who trust in your treasures and boast : Who can attack me?

<sup>5</sup> Look, I am about to bring terror on you--this is the declaration of the Lord, the GOD of Hosts--from all those around you. You will be banished, each man headlong, with no one to gather up the fugitives.

<sup>6</sup> But after that, I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>7</sup> About Edom, this is what the LORD of Hosts says: Is there no longer wisdom in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom rotted away?

<sup>8</sup> Run! Turn back! Lie low, residents of Dedan, for I will bring Esau's calamity on him at the time I punish him.

<sup>9</sup> If grape harvesters came to you, wouldn't they leave some gleanings? Were thieves to come in the night, they would destroy only what they wanted.

<sup>10</sup> But I will strip Esau bare; I will uncover his secret places. He will try to

hide himself, but he will be unable. His descendants will be destroyed along with his relatives and neighbors. He will exist no longer.

<sup>11</sup> Abandon your orphans; I will preserve them; let your widows trust in Me.

<sup>12</sup> "For this is what the LORD says: If those who do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, can you possibly remain unpunished? You will not remain unpunished, for you must drink it too.

<sup>13</sup> For by Myself I have sworn"--the LORD's declaration--"Bozrah will become a desolation, a disgrace, a ruin, and a curse, and all her cities will become ruins forever."

<sup>14</sup> I have heard a message from the LORD; an envoy has been sent among the nations: Assemble yourselves to come against her. Rise up for war!

<sup>15</sup> Look, I will certainly make you insignificant among the nations, despised among humanity.

<sup>16</sup> As to the terror you cause, your presumptuous heart has deceived you. You who live in the clefts of the rock, you who occupy the mountain summit, though you elevate your nest like the eagle, even from there I will bring you down. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>17</sup> "Edom will become a desolation. Everyone who passes by her will be horrified and scoff because of all her wounds.

<sup>18</sup> As when Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown along with their neighbors," says the LORD, "no one will live there; no human being will even stay in it as a resident alien.

<sup>19</sup> "Look, it will be like a lion coming up from the thickets of the Jordan to the perennially watered grazing land.

Indeed, I will chase Edom away from her land in a flash. I will appoint whoever is chosen for her. For who is like Me? Who will summon Me? Who is the shepherd who can stand against Me?"

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, hear the plans that the LORD has drawn up against Edom and the strategies He has devised against the people of Teman: The flock's little lambs will certainly be dragged away, and their grazing land will be made desolate because of them.

<sup>21</sup> At the sound of their fall the earth will quake; the sound of her cry will be heard at the Red Sea.

<sup>22</sup> Look! It will be like an eagle soaring upward, then swooping down and spreading its wings over Bozrah. In that day the hearts of Edom's warriors will be like the heart of a woman with contractions.

<sup>23</sup> About Damascus: Hamath and Arpad are put to shame, for they have heard a bad report and are agitated; in the sea there is anxiety that cannot be calmed.

<sup>24</sup> Damascus has become weak; she has turned to run; panic has gripped her. Distress and labor pains have seized her like a woman in labor.

<sup>25</sup> How can the city of praise not be abandoned, the town that brings Me joy?

<sup>26</sup> Therefore, her young men will fall in her public squares; all the warriors will be silenced in that day. This is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>27</sup> I will set fire to the wall of Damascus; it will devour Ben-hadad's citadels.

<sup>28</sup> About Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon's king, defeated, this is what the LORD says: Rise up, go against Kedar, and destroy the people of the east!



<sup>29</sup> They will take their tents and their flocks along with their tent curtains and all their equipment. They will take their camels for themselves. They will call out to them: Terror is on every side!

<sup>30</sup> Run! Escape quickly! Lie low, residents of Hazor--this is the LORD's declaration--for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has drawn up a plan against you; he has devised a strategy against you.

<sup>31</sup> Rise up, go up against a nation at ease, one living in security. This is the LORD's declaration. They have no doors, not even a gate bar; they live alone.

<sup>32</sup> Their camels will become plunder, and their massive herds of cattle will become spoil. I will scatter them to the wind in every direction, those who shave their temples; I will bring calamity on them across all their borders. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>33</sup> Hazor will become a jackals' den, a desolation forever. No one will live there; no human being will even stay in it as a resident alien.

<sup>34</sup> This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet about Elam at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah.

<sup>35</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts says: I am about to shatter Elam's bow, the source of their might.

<sup>36</sup> I will bring the four winds against Elam from the four corners of the heavens, and I will scatter them to all these winds. There will not be a nation to which Elam's banished ones will not go.

<sup>37</sup> I will devastate Elam before their enemies, before those who want to take their lives. I will bring disaster on them, My burning anger. This is the LORD's

declaration. I will send the sword after them until I finish them off.

<sup>38</sup> I will set My throne in Elam, and I will destroy the king and officials from there. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>39</sup> In the last days, I will restore the fortunes of Elam. This is the LORD's declaration.

**50** <sup>1</sup> The word the LORD spoke about Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>2</sup> Announce to the nations; proclaim and raise up a signal flag; proclaim, and hide nothing. Say: Babylon is captured; Bel is put to shame; Marduk is devastated; her idols are put to shame; her false gods, devastated.

<sup>3</sup> For a nation from the north will come against her; it will make her land desolate. No one will be living in it--both man and beast will escape.

<sup>4</sup> In those days and at that time--this is the LORD's declaration--the Israelites and Judeans will come together, weeping as they come, and will seek the LORD their God.

<sup>5</sup> They will ask about Zion, turning their faces to this road. They will come and join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.

<sup>6</sup> My people are lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray, guiding them the wrong way in the mountains. They have wandered from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting place.

<sup>7</sup> All who found them devoured them. Their adversaries said: We're not guilty; instead, they have sinned against the LORD, their righteous grazing land, the hope of their ancestors, the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> Escape from Babylon; depart from the Chaldeans' land. Be like the rams that lead the flock.

<sup>9</sup> For I will soon stir up and bring against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country. They will line up in battle formation against her; from there she will be captured. Their arrows will be like those of a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed.

<sup>10</sup> The Chaldeans will become plunder; all her plunderers will be fully satisfied. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>11</sup> Because you rejoice, because you sing in triumph--you who plundered My inheritance--because you frolic like a young cow treading grain and neigh like stallions,

<sup>12</sup> your mother will be utterly humiliated; she who bore you will be put to shame. Look! She will lag behind all

the nations--a dry land, a wilderness, an Arabah.

<sup>13</sup> Because of the LORD's wrath, she will not be inhabited; she will become a desolation, every bit of her. Everyone who passes through Babylon will be horrified and scoff because of all her wounds.

<sup>14</sup> Line up in battle formation around Babylon, all you archers! Shoot at her! Do not spare an arrow, for she has sinned against the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Raise a war cry against her on every side! She has thrown up her hands in surrender ; her defense towers have fallen; her walls are demolished. Since this is the LORD's vengeance, take out your vengeance on her; as she has done, do the same to her.

<sup>16</sup> Cut off the sower from Babylon as well as him who wields the sickle at harvest time. Because of the oppressor's

sword, each will turn to his own people, each will flee to his own land.

<sup>17</sup> Israel is a stray lamb, chased by lions. The first who devoured him was the king of Assyria; this last who has crunched his bones was Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to punish the king of Babylon and his land just as I punished the king of Assyria.

<sup>19</sup> I will return Israel to his grazing land, and he will feed on Carmel and Bashan; he will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and of Gilead.

<sup>20</sup> In those days and at that time--this is the LORD's declaration--one will search for Israel's guilt, but there will be none, and for Judah's sins, but they will not be found, for I will forgive those I leave as a remnant.

<sup>21</sup> Go against the land of Merathaim, and against those living in Pekod. Put them to the sword; completely destroy them--this is the LORD's declaration--do everything I have commanded you.

<sup>22</sup> The sound of war is in the land--a great destruction.

<sup>23</sup> How the hammer of the whole earth is cut down and smashed! What a horror Babylon has become among the nations!

<sup>24</sup> Babylon, I laid a trap for you, and you were caught, but you did not even know it. You were found and captured because you fought against the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD opened His armory and brought out His weapons of wrath, because it is a task of the Lord GOD of Hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.

<sup>26</sup> Come against her from the most distant places. Open her granaries; pile her up like mounds of grain and



completely destroy her. Leave her no survivors.

<sup>27</sup> Put all her young bulls to the sword; let them go down to the slaughter. Woe to them, because their day has come, the time of their punishment.

<sup>28</sup> There is a voice of fugitives and escapees from the land of Babylon announcing in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance for His temple.

<sup>29</sup> Summon the archers to Babylon, all who string the bow; camp all around her; let none escape. Repay her according to her deeds; just as she has done, do the same to her, for she has acted arrogantly against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, her young men will fall in her public squares; all the warriors will be silenced in that day. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>31</sup> Look, I am against you, you arrogant one--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD of Hosts--because your day has come, the time when I will punish you.

<sup>32</sup> The arrogant will stumble and fall with no one to pick him up. I will set fire to his cities, and it will consume everything around him."

<sup>33</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Israelites and Judeans alike have been oppressed. All their captors hold them fast; they refuse to release them.

<sup>34</sup> Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of Hosts is His name. He will fervently plead their case so that He might bring rest to the earth but turmoil to those who live in Babylon.

<sup>35</sup> A sword is over the Chaldeans--this is the LORD's declaration--against those who live in Babylon, against her officials, and against her sages.

<sup>36</sup> A sword is against the diviners, and they will act foolishly. A sword is against her heroic warriors, and they will be terrified.

<sup>37</sup> A sword is against his horses and chariots and against all the foreigners among them, and they will be like women. A sword is against her treasures, and they will be plundered.

<sup>38</sup> A drought will come on her waters, and they will be dried up. For it is a land of carved images, and they go mad because of terrifying things.

<sup>39</sup> Therefore, desert creatures will live with jackals, and ostriches will also live in her. It will never again be inhabited or lived in through all generations.

<sup>40</sup> Just as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns--this is the LORD's declaration--so no one will live there; no human being will even stay in it as a resident alien.

<sup>41</sup> Look! A people comes from the north. A great nation and many kings will be stirred up from the remote regions of the earth.

<sup>42</sup> They grasp bow and javelin. They are cruel and show no mercy. Their voice roars like the sea, and they ride on horses, lined up like men in battle formation against you, Daughter of Babylon.

<sup>43</sup> The king of Babylon has heard reports about them, and his hands fall helpless. Distress has seized him--pain, like a woman in labor.

<sup>44</sup> "Look, it will be like a lion coming up from the thickets of the Jordan to the perennially watered grazing land. Indeed, I will chase Babylon away from her land in a flash. I will appoint whoever is chosen for her. For who is like Me? Who will summon Me? Who is the shepherd who can stand against Me?"

<sup>45</sup> Therefore, hear the plans that the LORD has drawn up against Babylon and the strategies He has devised against the land of the Chaldeans: Certainly the flock's little lambs will be dragged away; certainly the grazing land will be made desolate because of them.

<sup>46</sup> At the sound of Babylon's conquest the earth will quake; a cry will be heard among the nations.

**51** <sup>1</sup> This is what the LORD says: I am about to stir up a destructive wind against Babylon and against the population of Leb-qamai.

<sup>2</sup> I will send strangers to Babylon who will scatter her and strip her land bare, for they will come against her from every side in the day of disaster.

<sup>3</sup> Don't let the archer string his bow; don't let him put on his armor. Don't spare her young men; completely destroy her entire army!

<sup>4</sup> Those who were slain will fall in the land of the Chaldeans, those who were pierced through, in her streets.

<sup>5</sup> For Israel and Judah are not left widowed by their God, the LORD of Hosts, though their land is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>6</sup> Leave Babylon; save your lives, each of you! Don't be silenced by her guilt. For this is the time of the LORD's vengeance--He will pay her what she deserves.

<sup>7</sup> Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand making the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations go mad.

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly Babylon fell and was shattered. Wail for her; get balm for her wound--perhaps she can be healed.

<sup>9</sup> We tried to heal Babylon, but she could not be healed. Abandon her! Let each of us go to his own land, for her

judgment extends to the sky and reaches as far as the clouds.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has brought about our vindication; come, let's tell in Zion what the LORD our God has accomplished.

<sup>11</sup> Sharpen the arrows! Fill the quivers! The LORD has put it into the mind of the kings of the Medes because His plan is aimed at Babylon to destroy her, for it is the LORD's vengeance, vengeance for His temple.

<sup>12</sup> Raise up a signal flag against the walls of Babylon; fortify the watch post; set the watchmen in place; prepare the ambush. For the LORD has both planned and accomplished what He has threatened against those who live in Babylon.

<sup>13</sup> You who reside by many waters, rich in treasures, your end has come, your life thread is cut.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD of Hosts has sworn by Himself: I will fill you up with men as with locusts, and they will sing the victory song over you.

<sup>15</sup> He made the earth by His power, established the world by His wisdom, and spread out the heavens by His understanding.

<sup>16</sup> When He thunders, the waters in the heavens are in turmoil, and He causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain and brings the wind from His storehouses.

<sup>17</sup> Everyone is stupid and ignorant. Every goldsmith is put to shame by his carved image, for his cast images are a lie; there is no breath in them.

<sup>18</sup> They are worthless, a work to be mocked. At the time of their punishment they will be destroyed.



<sup>19</sup> Jacob's Portion is not like these because He is the One who formed all things. Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; the LORD of Hosts is His name.

<sup>20</sup> You are My battle club, My weapons of war. With you I will smash nations; with you I will bring kingdoms to ruin.

<sup>21</sup> With you I will smash the horse and its rider; with you I will smash the chariot and its rider.

<sup>22</sup> With you I will smash man and woman; with you I will smash the old man and the youth; with you I will smash the young man and the virgin.

<sup>23</sup> With you I will smash the shepherd and his flock; with you I will smash the farmer and his ox-team. With you I will smash governors and officials.

<sup>24</sup> "I will repay Babylon and all the residents of Chaldea for all their evil

they have done in Zion before your very eyes." This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>25</sup> Look, I am against you, devastating mountain--this is the LORD's declaration--you devastate the whole earth. I will stretch out My hand against you, roll you down from the cliffs, and turn you into a burned-out mountain.

<sup>26</sup> No one will be able to retrieve a cornerstone or a foundation stone from you, because you will become desolate forever. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>27</sup> Raise a signal flag in the land; blow a ram's horn among the nations; set apart the nations against her. Summon kingdoms against her--Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz. Appoint a marshal against her; bring up horses like a swarm of locusts.

<sup>28</sup> Set apart the nations for battle against her--the kings of Media, her

governors and all her officials, and all the lands they rule.

<sup>29</sup> The earth quakes and trembles, because the LORD's purposes against Babylon stand: to make the land of Babylon an uninhabited desolation.

<sup>30</sup> Babylon's warriors have stopped fighting; they sit in their strongholds. Their might is exhausted; they have become like women. Babylon's homes have been set ablaze, her gate bars are shattered.

<sup>31</sup> Messenger races to meet messenger, and herald to meet herald, to announce to the king of Babylon that his city has been captured from end to end .

<sup>32</sup> The fords have been seized, the marshes set on fire, and the soldiers are terrified.

<sup>33</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the

time it is trampled. In just a little while her harvest time will come.

<sup>34</sup> "Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has devoured me; he has crushed me. He has set me aside like an empty dish; he has swallowed me like a sea monster; he filled his belly with my delicacies; he has vomited me out,"

<sup>35</sup> says the inhabitant of Zion; "Let the violence done to me and my family be done to Babylon. Let my blood be on the inhabitants of Chaldea," says Jerusalem.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I am about to plead your case and take vengeance on your behalf; I will dry up her sea and make her fountain run dry.

<sup>37</sup> Babylon will become a heap of rubble, a jackals' den, a desolation and an object of scorn, without inhabitant.

<sup>38</sup> They will roar together like young lions; they will growl like lion cubs.

<sup>39</sup> While they are flushed with heat, I will serve them a feast, and I will make them drunk so that they revel. Then they will fall asleep forever and never wake up. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>40</sup> I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams together with male goats.

<sup>41</sup> How Sheshach has been captured, the praise of the whole earth seized. What a horror Babylon has become among the nations!

<sup>42</sup> The sea has risen over Babylon; she is covered with its turbulent waves.

<sup>43</sup> Her cities have become a desolation, a dry and arid land, a land where no one lives, where no human being passes through.

<sup>44</sup> I will punish Bel in Babylon. I will make him vomit what he swallowed. The nations will no longer stream to him; even Babylon's wall will fall.

<sup>45</sup> Come out from among her, My people! Save your lives, each of you, from the LORD's burning anger.

<sup>46</sup> May you not become faint-hearted and fearful when the report is proclaimed in the land, for the report will come one year, and then another the next year. There will be violence in the land with ruler against ruler.

<sup>47</sup> Therefore, look, the days are coming when I will punish Babylon's carved images. Her entire land will suffer shame, and all her slain will lie fallen within her.

<sup>48</sup> Heaven and earth and everything in them will shout for joy over Babylon because the destroyers from the north will come against her. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>49</sup> Babylon must fall because of the slain of Israel, even as the slain of all the earth fell because of Babylon.

<sup>50</sup> You who have escaped the sword, go and do not stand still! Remember the LORD from far away, and let Jerusalem come to your mind.

<sup>51</sup> We are ashamed because we have heard insults. Humiliation covers our faces because foreigners have entered the holy places of the LORD's temple.

<sup>52</sup> Therefore, look, the days are coming--this is the LORD's declaration--when I will punish her carved images, and the wounded will groan throughout her land.

<sup>53</sup> Even if Babylon should ascend to the heavens and fortify her tall fortresses, destroyers will come against her from Me. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>54</sup> The sound of a cry from Babylon! The sound of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans!

<sup>55</sup> For the LORD is going to devastate Babylon; He will silence her mighty voice.

Their waves roar like abundant waters;  
the tumult of their voice resounds,

<sup>56</sup> for a destroyer is coming against her,  
against Babylon. Her warriors will be  
captured, their bows shattered, for the  
LORD is a God of retribution; He will  
certainly repay.

<sup>57</sup> I will make her princes and sages  
drunk, along with her governors,  
officials, and warriors. Then they will fall  
asleep forever and never wake up. This  
is the King's declaration; the LORD of  
Hosts is His name.

<sup>58</sup> This is what the LORD of Hosts  
says: Babylon's thick walls will be  
totally demolished, and her high gates  
consumed by fire. The peoples will have  
labored for nothing; the nations will  
exhaust themselves only to feed the fire.

<sup>59</sup> This is what Jeremiah the prophet  
commanded Seraiah son of Neriah son  
of Mahseiah, the quartermaster, when



he went to Babylon with Zedekiah king of Judah in the fourth year of Zedekiah's reign.

<sup>60</sup> Jeremiah wrote on one scroll about all the disaster that would come to Babylon; all these words were written against Babylon.

<sup>61</sup> Jeremiah told Seraiah, "When you get to Babylon, see that you read all these words aloud.

<sup>62</sup> You must say, 'LORD, You have threatened to cut off this place so that no one will live in it--man or beast. Indeed, it will remain desolate forever.'

<sup>63</sup> When you have finished reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates River.

<sup>64</sup> Then say, 'In the same way, Babylon will sink and never rise again because of the disaster I am bringing on her. They will grow weary.'" The words of Jeremiah end here.

**52** <sup>1</sup> Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king; he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.

<sup>2</sup> Zedekiah did what was evil in the LORD's sight just as Jehoiakim had done.

<sup>3</sup> Because of the LORD's anger, it came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that He finally banished them from His presence. Nevertheless, Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> In the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon advanced against Jerusalem with his entire army. They laid siege to the city and built a siege wall all around it.

<sup>5</sup> The city was under siege until King Zedekiah's eleventh year.

<sup>6</sup> By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that the people of the land had no food.

<sup>7</sup> Then the city was broken into, and all the warriors fled. They left the city by night by way of the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Chaldeans surrounded the city. They made their way along the route to the Arabah.

<sup>8</sup> The Chaldean army pursued the king and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. Zedekiah's entire army was scattered from him.

<sup>9</sup> The Chaldeans seized the king and brought him to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

<sup>10</sup> At Riblah the king of Babylon slaughtered Zedekiah's sons before his eyes and also slaughtered the Judean commanders.

<sup>11</sup> Then he blinded Zedekiah and bound him with bronze chains. The king of Babylon brought Zedekiah to Babylon, where he kept him in custody until his dying day.

<sup>12</sup> On the tenth day of the fifth month--which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon--Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, entered Jerusalem as the representative of the king of Babylon.

<sup>13</sup> He burned the LORD's temple, the king's palace, all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the nobles.

<sup>14</sup> The whole Chaldean army with the commander of the guards tore down all the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, deported some of the poorest of the people, as well as the rest of the people who were left in the city,

the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the craftsmen.

<sup>16</sup> But some of the poor people of the land Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, left to be vinedressers and farmers.

<sup>17</sup> Now the Chaldeans broke into pieces the bronze pillars for the LORD's temple and the water carts and the bronze reservoir that were in the LORD's temple, and carried all the bronze to Babylon.

<sup>18</sup> They took the pots, the shovels, the wick trimmers, the sprinkling basins, the dishes, and all the bronze articles used in temple service.

<sup>19</sup> The commander of the guards took away the bowls, the firepans, the sprinkling basins, the pots, the lampstands, the pans, and the drink

offering bowls--whatever was gold or silver.

<sup>20</sup> As for the two pillars, the one reservoir, and the 12 bronze bulls under the water carts that King Solomon had made for the LORD's temple, the weight of the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure.

<sup>21</sup> One pillar was 27 feet tall, had a circumference of 18 feet, was hollow--four fingers thick--

<sup>22</sup> and had a bronze capital on top of it. One capital, encircled by bronze latticework and pomegranates, stood seven and a half feet high. The second pillar was the same, with pomegranates.

<sup>23</sup> Each capital had 96 pomegranates all around it. All the pomegranates around the latticework numbered 100.

<sup>24</sup> The commander of the guards also took away Seraiah the chief priest,

Zephaniah the priest of the second rank, and the three doorkeepers.

<sup>25</sup> From the city he took a court official who had been appointed over the warriors; seven trusted royal aides found in the city; the secretary of the commander of the army, who enlisted the people of the land for military duty; and 60 men from the common people who were found within the city.

<sup>26</sup> Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

<sup>27</sup> The king of Babylon put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah went into exile from its land.

<sup>28</sup> These are the people Nebuchadnezzar deported: in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;

<sup>29</sup> in his eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem;

<sup>30</sup> in Nebuchadnezzar's twenty-third year, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, deported 745 Jews. All together 4,600 people were deported .

<sup>31</sup> On the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month of the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Judah's King Jehoiachin, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, pardoned King Jehoiachin of Judah and released him from the prison.

<sup>32</sup> He spoke kindly to him and set his throne above the thrones of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

<sup>33</sup> So Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes, and he dined regularly in the presence of the king of Babylon for the rest of his life.

<sup>34</sup> As for his allowance, a regular allowance was given to him by the king of Babylon, a portion for each day until



the day of his death, for the rest of his life.

# Lamentations

**1** <sup>1</sup> How she sits alone, the city once crowded with people! She who was great among the nations has become like a widow. The princess among the provinces has become a slave.

<sup>2</sup> She weeps aloud during the night, with tears on her cheeks. There is no one to offer her comfort, not one from all her lovers. All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

<sup>3</sup> Judah has gone into exile following affliction and harsh slavery; she lives among the nations but finds no place to rest. All her pursuers have overtaken her in narrow places.

<sup>4</sup> The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the appointed festivals. All her gates are deserted; her priests

groan, her young women grieve, and she herself is bitter.

<sup>5</sup> Her adversaries have become her masters; her enemies are at ease, for the LORD has made her suffer because of her many transgressions. Her children have gone away as captives before the adversary.

<sup>6</sup> All her splendor has vanished from Daughter Zion. Her leaders are like stags that find no pasture; they walk away exhausted before the hunter.

<sup>7</sup> During the days of her affliction and homelessness Jerusalem remembers all her precious belongings that were hers in days of old. When her people fell into the adversary's hand, she had no one to help. The adversaries looked at her, laughing over her downfall.

<sup>8</sup> Jerusalem has sinned grievously; therefore, she has become an object of scorn. All who honored her now despise

her, for they have seen her nakedness.  
She herself groans and turns away.

<sup>9</sup> Her uncleanness stains her skirts. She never considered her end. Her downfall was astonishing; there was no one to comfort her. LORD, look on my affliction, for the enemy triumphs!

<sup>10</sup> The adversary has seized all her precious belongings. She has even seen the nations enter her sanctuary--those You had forbidden to enter Your assembly.

<sup>11</sup> All her people groan while they search for bread. They have traded their precious belongings for food in order to stay alive. LORD, look and see how I have become despised.

<sup>12</sup> Is this nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see! Is there any pain like mine, which was dealt out to me, which the LORD made me suffer on the day of His burning anger?

<sup>13</sup> He sent fire from on high into my bones; He made it descend. He spread a net for my feet and turned me back. He made me desolate, sick all day long.

<sup>14</sup> My transgressions have been formed into a yoke, fastened together by His hand; they have been placed on my neck, and the Lord has broken my strength. He has handed me over to those I cannot withstand.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord has rejected all the mighty men within me. He has summoned an army against me to crush my young warriors. The Lord has trampled Virgin Daughter Judah like grapes in a winepress.

<sup>16</sup> I weep because of these things; my eyes flow with tears. For there is no one nearby to comfort me , no one to keep me alive. My children are desolate because the enemy has prevailed.

<sup>17</sup> Zion stretches out her hands; there is no one to comfort her. The LORD has issued a decree against Jacob that his neighbors should be his adversaries. Jerusalem has become something impure among them.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is in the right, for I have rebelled against His command. Listen, all you people; look at my pain. My young men and women have gone into captivity.

<sup>19</sup> I called to my lovers, but they betrayed me. My priests and elders perished in the city while searching for food to keep themselves alive.

<sup>20</sup> LORD, see how I am in distress. I am churning within; my heart is broken, for I have been very rebellious. Outside, the sword takes the children; inside, there is death.

<sup>21</sup> People have heard me groaning, but there is no one to comfort me. All my

enemies have heard of my misfortune; they are glad that You have caused it . Bring on the day You have announced, so that they may become like me.

<sup>22</sup> Let all their wickedness come before You, and deal with them as You have dealt with me because of all my transgressions. For my groans are many, and I am sick at heart.

**2** <sup>1</sup> How the Lord has overshadowed Daughter Zion with His anger! He has thrown down Israel's glory from heaven to earth. He has abandoned His footstool in the day of His anger.

<sup>2</sup> Without compassion the Lord has swallowed up all the dwellings of Jacob. In His wrath He has demolished the fortified cities of Daughter Judah. He brought them to the ground and defiled the kingdom and its leaders.

<sup>3</sup> He has cut off every horn of Israel in His burning anger and withdrawn

His right hand in the presence of the enemy. He has blazed against Jacob like a flaming fire that consumes everything in its path .

<sup>4</sup> Like an enemy He has bent His bow; His right hand is positioned like an adversary. He has killed everyone who was loved, pouring out His wrath like fire on the tent of Daughter Zion.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is like an enemy; He has swallowed up Israel. He swallowed up all its palaces and destroyed its fortified cities. He has multiplied mourning and lamentation within Daughter Judah.

<sup>6</sup> He has done violence to His temple as if it were a garden booth , destroying His place of meeting. The LORD has abolished appointed festivals and Sabbaths in Zion. He has despised king and priest in His fierce anger.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord has rejected His altar, repudiated His sanctuary; He has



handed the walls of her palaces over to the enemy. They have raised a shout in the house of the LORD as on the day of an appointed festival.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD determined to destroy the wall of Daughter Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not restrain Himself from destroying. He made the ramparts and walls grieve; together they waste away.

<sup>9</sup> Zion's gates have fallen to the ground; He has destroyed and shattered the bars on her gates. Her king and her leaders live among the nations, instruction is no more, and even her prophets receive no vision from the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> The elders of Daughter 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 worn out from weeping; I am churning within. My heart is poured out in grief because of the destruction of my dear people, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

<sup>12</sup> They cry out to their mothers: Where is the grain and wine? as they faint like the wounded in the streets of the city, as their lives fade away in the arms of their mothers.

<sup>13</sup> What can I say on your behalf? To what can I compare you, Daughter Jerusalem? What can I liken you to, so that I may console you, Virgin Daughter Zion? For your ruin is as vast as the sea. Who can heal you?

<sup>14</sup> Your prophets saw visions for you that were empty and deceptive; they did not reveal your guilt and so restore your fortunes. They saw oracles for you that were empty and misleading.

<sup>15</sup> All who pass by scornfully clap their hands at you. They hiss and shake their heads at Daughter Jerusalem: Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth?

<sup>16</sup> All your enemies open their mouths against you. They hiss and gnash their teeth, saying, "We have swallowed her up. This is the day we have waited for! We have lived to see it ."

<sup>17</sup> The LORD has done what He planned; He has accomplished His decree, which He ordained in days of old. He has demolished without compassion, letting the enemy gloat over you and exalting the horn of your adversaries.

<sup>18</sup> The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord. Wall of Daughter Zion, let your tears run down like a river day and night. Give yourself no relief and your eyes no rest.

<sup>19</sup> Arise, cry out in the night, from the first watch of the night. Pour out your heart like water before the Lord's presence. Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your children who are fainting from hunger on the corner of every street.

<sup>20</sup> LORD, look and consider who You have done this to. Should women eat their own children, the infants they have nurtured? Should priests and prophets be killed in the Lord's sanctuary?

<sup>21</sup> Both young and old are lying on the ground in the streets. My young men and women have fallen by the sword. You have killed them in the day of Your anger, slaughtering without compassion.

<sup>22</sup> You summoned my attackers on every side, as if for an appointed festival day; on the day of the LORD's anger no one escaped or survived. My enemy has destroyed those I nurtured and reared.

**3** <sup>1</sup> I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath.

<sup>2</sup> He has driven me away and forced me to walk in darkness instead of light.

<sup>3</sup> Yes, He repeatedly turns His hand against me all day long.

<sup>4</sup> He has worn away my flesh and skin; He has shattered my bones.

<sup>5</sup> He has laid siege against me, encircling me with bitterness and hardship.

<sup>6</sup> He has made me dwell in darkness like those who have been dead for ages.

<sup>7</sup> He has walled me in so I cannot escape; He has weighed me down with chains.

<sup>8</sup> Even when I cry out and plead for help, He rejects my prayer.

<sup>9</sup> He has walled in my ways with cut stones; He has made my paths crooked.

<sup>10</sup> He is a bear waiting in ambush, a lion in hiding;

<sup>11</sup> He forced me off my way and tore me to pieces; He left me desolate.

<sup>12</sup> He bent His bow and set me as the target for His arrow.

<sup>13</sup> He pierced my kidneys with His arrows.

<sup>14</sup> I am a laughingstock to all my people, mocked by their songs all day long.

<sup>15</sup> He filled me with bitterness, sated me with wormwood.

<sup>16</sup> He ground my teeth on gravel and made me cower in the dust.

<sup>17</sup> My soul has been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is.

<sup>18</sup> Then I thought: My future is lost, as well as my hope from the LORD.

<sup>19</sup> Remember my affliction and my homelessness, the wormwood and the poison.

<sup>20</sup> I continually remember them and have become depressed.

<sup>21</sup> Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I have hope:

<sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end.

<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!

<sup>24</sup> I say: The LORD is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in Him.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.

<sup>26</sup> It is good to wait quietly for deliverance from the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is still young.

<sup>28</sup> Let him sit alone and be silent, for God has disciplined him.

<sup>29</sup> Let him put his mouth in the dust--perhaps there is still hope.

<sup>30</sup> Let him offer his cheek to the one who would strike him; let him be filled with shame.

<sup>31</sup> For the Lord will not reject us forever.

<sup>32</sup> Even if He causes suffering, He will show compassion according to His abundant, faithful love.

<sup>33</sup> For He does not enjoy bringing affliction or suffering on mankind.

<sup>34</sup> Crushing all the prisoners of the land beneath one's feet,

<sup>35</sup> denying justice to a man in the presence of the Most High,

<sup>36</sup> or suppressing a person's lawsuit--the Lord does not approve of these things .

<sup>37</sup> Who is there who speaks and it happens, unless the Lord has ordained it ?

<sup>38</sup> Do not both adversity and good come from the mouth of the Most High?

<sup>39</sup> Why should any living person complain, any man, because of the punishment for his sins?

<sup>40</sup> Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD.



<sup>41</sup> Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven:

<sup>42</sup> We have sinned and rebelled; You have not forgiven.

<sup>43</sup> You have covered Yourself in anger and pursued us; You have killed without compassion.

<sup>44</sup> You have covered Yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through.

<sup>45</sup> You have made us disgusting filth among the peoples.

<sup>46</sup> All our enemies open their mouths against us.

<sup>47</sup> We have experienced panic and pitfall, devastation and destruction.

<sup>48</sup> My eyes flow with streams of tears because of the destruction of my dear people.

<sup>49</sup> My eyes overflow unceasingly, without end,

<sup>50</sup> until the LORD looks down from heaven and sees.

<sup>51</sup> My eyes bring me grief because of the fate of all the women in my city.

<sup>52</sup> For no apparent reason, my enemies hunted me like a bird.

<sup>53</sup> They dropped me alive into a pit and threw stones at me.

<sup>54</sup> Water flooded over my head, and I thought: I'm going to die!

<sup>55</sup> I called on Your name, Yahweh, from the depths of the Pit.

<sup>56</sup> You hear my plea: Do not ignore my cry for relief.

<sup>57</sup> You come near when I call on You; You say: "Do not be afraid."

<sup>58</sup> You defend my cause, Lord; You redeem my life.

<sup>59</sup> LORD, You see the wrong done to me; judge my case.

<sup>60</sup> You see all their malice, all their plots against me.

<sup>61</sup> LORD, You hear their insults, all their plots against me.

<sup>62</sup> The slander and murmuring of my opponents attack me all day long.

<sup>63</sup> When they sit and when they rise, look, I am mocked by their songs.

<sup>64</sup> You will pay them back what they deserve, LORD, according to the work of their hands.

<sup>65</sup> You will give them a heart filled with anguish. May Your curse be on them!

<sup>66</sup> You will pursue them in anger and destroy them under Your heavens.

**4** <sup>1</sup> How the gold has become tarnished, the fine gold become dull! The stones of the temple lie scattered at the corner of every street.

<sup>2</sup> Zion's precious people--once worth their weight in pure gold--how they are regarded as clay jars, the work of a potter's hands!

<sup>3</sup> Even jackals offer their breasts to nurse their young, but my dear people

have become cruel like ostriches in the wilderness.

<sup>4</sup> The nursing infant's tongue clings to the roof of his mouth from thirst. Little children beg for bread, but no one gives them any .

<sup>5</sup> Those who used to eat delicacies are destitute in the streets; those who were reared in purple garments huddle in garbage heaps.

<sup>6</sup> The punishment of my dear people is greater than that of Sodom, which was overthrown in an instant without a hand laid on it.

<sup>7</sup> Her dignitaries were brighter than snow, whiter than milk; their bodies were more ruddy than coral, their appearance like sapphire.

<sup>8</sup> Now they appear darker than soot; they are not recognized in the streets. Their skin has shriveled on their bones; it has become dry like wood.

<sup>9</sup> Those slain by the sword are better off than those slain by hunger, who waste away, pierced with pain because the fields lack produce.

<sup>10</sup> The hands of compassionate women have cooked their own children; they became their food during the destruction of my dear people.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD has exhausted His wrath, poured out His burning anger; He has ignited a fire in Zion, and it has consumed her foundations.

<sup>12</sup> The kings of the earth and all the world's inhabitants did not believe that an enemy or adversary could enter Jerusalem's gates.

<sup>13</sup> Yet it happened because of the sins of her prophets and the guilt of her priests, who shed the blood of the righteous within her.

<sup>14</sup> Blind, they stumbled in the streets, defiled by this blood, so that no one dared to touch their garments.

<sup>15</sup> "Stay away! Unclean!" people shouted at them. "Away, away! Don't touch us !" So they wandered aimlessly. It was said among the nations, "They can stay here no longer."

<sup>16</sup> The LORD Himself has scattered them; He regards them no more. The priests are not respected; the elders find no favor.

<sup>17</sup> All the while our eyes were failing as we looked in vain for assistance; we watched from our towers for a nation that refused to help.

<sup>18</sup> Our steps were closely followed, so that we could not walk in our streets. Our end drew near; our time ran out. Our end had come!

<sup>19</sup> Those who chased us were swifter than eagles in the sky; they relentlessly

pursued us over the mountains and ambushed us in the wilderness.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD's anointed, the breath of our life, was captured in their traps; we had said about him: We will live under his protection among the nations.

<sup>21</sup> So rejoice and be glad, Daughter Edom, you resident of the land of Uz! Yet the cup will pass to you as well; you will get drunk and expose yourself.

<sup>22</sup> Daughter Zion, your punishment is complete; He will not lengthen your exile. But He will punish your iniquity, Daughter Edom, and will expose your sins.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Yahweh, remember what has happened to us. Look, and see our disgrace!

<sup>2</sup> Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our houses to foreigners.

<sup>3</sup> We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are widows.

<sup>4</sup> We must pay for the water we drink;  
our wood comes at a price.

<sup>5</sup> We are closely pursued; we are tired,  
and no one offers us rest.

<sup>6</sup> We made a treaty with Egypt and with  
Assyria, to get enough food.

<sup>7</sup> Our fathers sinned; they no longer  
exist, but we bear their punishment.

<sup>8</sup> Slaves rule over us; no one rescues us  
from their hands.

<sup>9</sup> We secure our food at the risk of  
our lives because of the sword in the  
wilderness.

<sup>10</sup> Our skin is as hot as an oven from the  
ravages of hunger.

<sup>11</sup> Women are raped in Zion, virgins in  
the cities of Judah.

<sup>12</sup> Princes are hung up by their hands;  
elders are shown no respect.

<sup>13</sup> Young men labor at millstones; boys  
stumble under loads of wood.



<sup>14</sup> The elders have left the city gate, the young men, their music.

<sup>15</sup> Joy has left our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning.

<sup>16</sup> The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned.

<sup>17</sup> Because of this, our heart is sick; because of these, our eyes grow dim:

<sup>18</sup> because of Mount Zion, which lies desolate and has jackals prowling in it.

<sup>19</sup> You, LORD, are enthroned forever; Your throne endures from generation to generation.

<sup>20</sup> Why have You forgotten us forever, abandoned us for our entire lives?

<sup>21</sup> LORD, restore us to Yourself, so we may return; renew our days as in former times,

<sup>22</sup> unless You have completely rejected us and are intensely angry with us.

# Ezekiel

**1** <sup>1</sup> In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month , on the fifth day of the month, while I was among the exiles by the Chebar Canal, the heavens opened and I saw visions of God.

<sup>2</sup> On the fifth day of the month--it was the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile--

<sup>3</sup> the word of the LORD came directly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar Canal. And the LORD's hand was on him there.

<sup>4</sup> I looked and there was a whirlwind coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing back and forth and brilliant light all around it. In the center of the fire, there was a gleam like amber.

<sup>5</sup> The form of four living creatures came from it. And this was their appearance: They had human form,

<sup>6</sup> but each of them had four faces and four wings.

<sup>7</sup> Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the hooves of a calf, sparkling like the gleam of polished bronze.

<sup>8</sup> They had human hands under their wings on their four sides. All four of them had faces and wings.

<sup>9</sup> Their wings were touching. The creatures did not turn as they moved; each one went straight ahead.

<sup>10</sup> The form of each of their faces was that of a man, and each of the four had the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle.

<sup>11</sup> That is what their faces were like . Their wings were spread upward; each

had two wings touching that of another and two wings covering its body.

<sup>12</sup> Each creature went straight ahead. Wherever the Spirit wanted to go, they went without turning as they moved.

<sup>13</sup> The form of the living creatures was like the appearance of burning coals of fire and torches. Fire was moving back and forth between the living creatures; it was bright, with lightning coming out of it.

<sup>14</sup> The creatures were darting back and forth like flashes of lightning.

<sup>15</sup> When I looked at the living creatures, there was one wheel on the ground beside each creature that had four faces.

<sup>16</sup> The appearance of the wheels and their craftsmanship was like the gleam of beryl, and all four had the same form. Their appearance and craftsmanship was like a wheel within a wheel.

<sup>17</sup> When they moved, they went in any of the four directions, without pivoting as they moved.

<sup>18</sup> Their rims were large and frightening. Each of their four rims were full of eyes all around.

<sup>19</sup> So when the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them, and when the creatures rose from the earth, the wheels also rose.

<sup>20</sup> Wherever the Spirit wanted to go, the creatures went in the direction the Spirit was moving. The wheels rose alongside them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

<sup>21</sup> When the creatures moved, the wheels moved; when the creatures stood still, the wheels stood still; and when the creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose alongside them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

<sup>22</sup> The shape of an expanse, with a gleam like awe-inspiring crystal, was spread out over the heads of the living creatures.

<sup>23</sup> And under the expanse their wings extended one toward another. Each of them also had two wings covering their bodies.

<sup>24</sup> When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the roar of mighty waters, like the voice of the Almighty, and a sound of commotion like the noise of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings.

<sup>25</sup> A voice came from above the expanse over their heads; when they stood still, they lowered their wings.

<sup>26</sup> The shape of a throne with the appearance of sapphire stone was above the expanse. There was a form with the appearance of a human on the throne high above.

<sup>27</sup> From what seemed to be His waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be His waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around Him.

<sup>28</sup> The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the form of the LORD's glory. When I saw it , I fell facedown and heard a voice speaking.

**2** <sup>1</sup> He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak with you."

<sup>2</sup> As He spoke to me, the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I listened to the One who was speaking to me.

<sup>3</sup> He said to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites and to the rebellious nations who have rebelled against Me. The Israelites and their

ancestors have transgressed against Me to this day.

<sup>4</sup> The children are obstinate and hardhearted. I am sending you to them, and you must say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says.

<sup>5</sup> Whether they listen or refuse to listen --for they are a rebellious house--they will know that a prophet has been among them.

<sup>6</sup> "But you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words, though briers and thorns are beside you and you live among scorpions. Don't be afraid of their words or be discouraged by the look on their faces, for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>7</sup> But speak My words to them whether they listen or refuse to listen , for they are rebellious.

<sup>8</sup> "And you, son of man, listen to what I tell you: Do not be rebellious like that



rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you."

<sup>9</sup> So I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me, and there was a written scroll in it.

<sup>10</sup> When He unrolled it before me, it was written on the front and back; words of lamentation, mourning, and woe were written on it.

**3** <sup>1</sup> He said to me: "Son of man, eat what you find here . Eat this scroll, then go and speak to the house of Israel."

<sup>2</sup> So I opened my mouth, and He fed me the scroll.

<sup>3</sup> "Son of man," he said to me, "eat and fill your stomach with this scroll I am giving you." So I ate it , and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth.

<sup>4</sup> Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak My words to them.

<sup>5</sup> For you are not being sent to a people of unintelligible speech or difficult language but to the house of Israel.

<sup>6</sup> You are not being sent to many peoples of unintelligible speech or difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. No doubt, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you.

<sup>7</sup> But the house of Israel will not want to listen to you because they do not want to listen to Me. For the whole house of Israel is hardheaded and hardhearted.

<sup>8</sup> Look, I have made your face as hard as their faces and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

<sup>9</sup> I have made your forehead like a diamond, harder than flint. Don't be afraid of them or discouraged by the look on their faces, even though they are a rebellious house."

<sup>10</sup> Next He said to me: "Son of man, listen carefully to all My words that I speak to you and take them to heart.

<sup>11</sup> Go to your people, the exiles, and speak to them. Tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says, whether they listen or refuse to listen ."

<sup>12</sup> The Spirit then lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me--praise the glory of the LORD in His place!--

<sup>13</sup> with the sound of the living creatures' wings brushing against each other and the sound of the wheels beside them, a great rumbling sound.

<sup>14</sup> So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away. I left in bitterness and in an angry spirit, and the LORD's hand was on me powerfully.

<sup>15</sup> I came to the exiles at Tel-abib, who were living by the Chebar Canal, and I sat there stunned for seven days.

<sup>16</sup> Now 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 over the house of Israel. When you hear a word from My mouth, give them a warning from Me.

<sup>18</sup> If I say to the wicked person: You will surely die, but you do not warn him--you don't speak out to warn him about his wicked way in order to save his life--that wicked person will die for his iniquity. Yet I will hold you responsible for his blood.

<sup>19</sup> But if you warn a wicked person and he does not turn from his wickedness or his wicked way, he will die for his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>20</sup> Now if a righteous person turns from his righteousness and practices iniquity, and I put a stumbling block in front of him, he will die. If you did not warn him, he will die because of his sin and the righteous acts he did will

not be remembered. Yet I will hold you responsible for his blood.

<sup>21</sup> But if you warn the righteous person that he should not sin, and he does not sin, he will indeed live because he listened to your warning, and you will have saved your life."

<sup>22</sup> Then the hand of the LORD was on me there, and He said to me, "Get up, go out to the plain, and I will speak with you there."

<sup>23</sup> So I got up and went out to the plain. The LORD's glory was present there, like the glory I had seen by the Chebar Canal, and I fell facedown.

<sup>24</sup> The Spirit entered me and set me on my feet. He spoke with me and said: "Go, shut yourself inside your house.

<sup>25</sup> And you, son of man, they will put ropes on you and bind you with them so you cannot go out among them.

<sup>26</sup> I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth, and you will be mute and unable to rebuke them, for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>27</sup> But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you will say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says. Let the one who listens, listen, and let the one who refuses, refuse--for they are a rebellious house.

**4** <sup>1</sup> "Now you, son of man, take a brick, set it in front of you, and draw the city of Jerusalem on it.

<sup>2</sup> Then lay siege against it: construct a siege wall, build a ramp, pitch military camps, and place battering rams against it on all sides.

<sup>3</sup> Take an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between yourself and the city. Turn your face toward it so that it is under siege, and besiege it. This will be a sign for the house of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> "Then lie down on your left side and place the iniquity of the house of Israel on it. You will bear their iniquity for the number of days you lie on your side.

<sup>5</sup> For I have assigned you the years of their iniquity according to the number of days you lie down , 390 days; so you will bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

<sup>6</sup> When you have completed these days, lie down again, but on your right side, and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.

<sup>7</sup> You must turn your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared, and prophecy against it.

<sup>8</sup> Be aware that I will put cords on you so you cannot turn from side to side until you have finished the days of your siege.

<sup>9</sup> "Also take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt. Put them in a single container and make them into

bread for yourself. You are to eat it during the number of days you lie on your side, 390 days.

<sup>10</sup> The food you eat each day will be eight ounces by weight; you will eat it from time to time.

<sup>11</sup> You are also to drink water by measure, one-sixth of a gallon, which you will drink from time to time.

<sup>12</sup> You will eat it as you would a barley cake and bake it over dried human excrement in their sight."

<sup>13</sup> The LORD said, "This is how the Israelites will eat their bread--ceremonially unclean--among the nations where I will banish them."

<sup>14</sup> But I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, I have never been defiled. From my youth until now I have not eaten anything that died naturally or was mauled by wild beasts. And impure meat has never entered my mouth."



<sup>15</sup> He replied to me, "Look, I will let you use cow dung instead of human excrement, and you can make your bread over that."

<sup>16</sup> Then He said to me, "Son of man, I am going to cut off the supply of bread in Jerusalem. They will anxiously eat bread rationed by weight and in dread drink water by measure.

<sup>17</sup> So they will lack bread and water; everyone will be devastated and waste away because of their iniquity.

**5** <sup>1</sup> "Now you, son of man, take a sharp sword, use it as you would a barber's razor, and shave your head and beard. Then take a pair of scales and divide the hair.

<sup>2</sup> You are to burn up one third of it in the city when the days of the siege have ended; you are to take one third and slash it with the sword all around the city; and you are to scatter one third to

the wind, for I will draw a sword to chase after them.

<sup>3</sup> But you are to take a few strands from the hair and secure them in the folds of your robe .

<sup>4</sup> Take some more of them, throw them into the fire, and burn them in it. A fire will spread from it to the whole house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: I have set this Jerusalem in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

<sup>6</sup> But she has rebelled against My ordinances with more wickedness than the nations, and against My statutes more than the countries that surround her. For her people have rejected My ordinances and have not walked in My statutes.

<sup>7</sup> "Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: Because you have been more insubordinate than the nations around

you--you have not walked in My statutes or kept My ordinances; you have not even kept the ordinances of the nations around you--

<sup>8</sup> therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: See, I am against you, Jerusalem , and I will execute judgments within you in the sight of the nations.

<sup>9</sup> Because of all your abominations, I will do to you what I have never done before and what I will never do again.

<sup>10</sup> As a result, fathers will eat their sons within Jerusalem, and sons will eat their fathers. I will execute judgments against you and scatter all your survivors to every direction of the wind.

<sup>11</sup> "Therefore, as I live"--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--"I am going to cut you off and show you no pity, because you have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable practices and abominations. Yes, I will not spare you .

<sup>12</sup> One third of your people will die by plague and be consumed by famine within you; one third will fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter one third to every direction of the wind, and I will draw a sword to chase after them.

<sup>13</sup> When My anger is spent and I have vented My wrath on them, I will be appeased. Then, after I have spent My wrath on them, they will know that I, the LORD, have spoken in My jealousy.

<sup>14</sup> "I will make you a ruin and a disgrace among the nations around you, in the sight of everyone who passes by.

<sup>15</sup> So you will be a disgrace and a taunt, a warning and a horror, to the nations around you when I execute judgments against you in anger, wrath, and furious rebukes. I, the LORD, have spoken.

<sup>16</sup> When I shoot deadly arrows of famine at them, arrows for destruction

that I will send to destroy you, inhabitants of Jerusalem , I will intensify the famine against you and cut off your supply of bread.

<sup>17</sup> I will send famine and dangerous animals against you. They will leave you childless, Jerusalem . Plague and bloodshed will sweep through you, and I will bring a sword against you. I, the LORD, have spoken."

**6** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:  
<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, turn your face toward the mountains of Israel and prophesy against them.

<sup>3</sup> You are to say: Mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! This is what the Lord GOD says to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: I am about to bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places.

<sup>4</sup> Your altars will be desolated and your incense altars smashed. I will throw down your slain in front of your idols.

<sup>5</sup> I will lay the corpses of the Israelites in front of their idols and scatter your bones around your altars.

<sup>6</sup> Wherever you live the cities will be in ruins and the high places will be desolate, so that your altars will lie in ruins and be desecrated, your idols smashed and obliterated, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.

<sup>7</sup> The slain will fall among you, and you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> "Yet I will leave a remnant when you are scattered among the nations, for throughout the countries there will be some of you who will escape the sword.

<sup>9</sup> Then your survivors will remember Me among the nations where they are taken captive, how I was crushed by

their promiscuous hearts that turned away from Me and by their eyes that lusted after their idols. They will loathe themselves because of the evil things they did, their abominations of every kind.

<sup>10</sup> And they will know that I am the LORD; I did not threaten to bring this disaster on them without a reason.

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: Clap your hands, stamp your feet, and cry out over all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, who will fall by the sword, famine, and plague.

<sup>12</sup> The one who is far off will die by plague; the one who is near will fall by the sword; and the one who remains and is spared will die of famine. In this way I will exhaust My wrath on them.

<sup>13</sup> You will all know that I am the LORD when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on

all the mountaintops, and under every green tree and every leafy oak--the places where they offered pleasing aromas to all their idols.

<sup>14</sup> I will stretch out My hand against them, and wherever they live I will make the land a desolate waste, from the wilderness to Diblah. Then they will know that I am Yahweh."

**7** <sup>1</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come on the four corners of the land.

<sup>3</sup> The end is now on you; I will send My anger against you and judge you according to your ways. I will punish you for all your abominations.

<sup>4</sup> I will not look on you with pity or spare you , but I will punish you for your ways and for your abominations within



you. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, one disaster after another is coming!

<sup>6</sup> An end has come; the end has come! It has awakened against you. Look, it is coming!

<sup>7</sup> Doom has come on you, inhabitants of the land. The time has come; the day is near. There will be panic on the mountains and not celebration.

<sup>8</sup> I will pour out My wrath on you very soon; I will exhaust My anger against you and judge you according to your ways. I will punish you for all your abominations.

<sup>9</sup> I will not look on you with pity or spare you . I will punish you for your ways and for your abominations within you. Then you will know that it is I, the LORD, who strikes.

<sup>10</sup> Look, the day is coming! Doom has gone out. The rod has blossomed; arrogance has bloomed.

<sup>11</sup> Violence has grown into a rod of wickedness; none of them will remain : none of their multitude, none of their wealth, and none of the eminent among them.

<sup>12</sup> The time has come; the day has arrived. Let the buyer not rejoice and the seller not mourn, for wrath is on all her multitude.

<sup>13</sup> The seller will certainly not return to what was sold as long as he and the buyer remain alive. For the vision concerning all its people will not be revoked, and none of them will preserve his life because of his iniquity.

<sup>14</sup> They have blown the trumpet and prepared everything, but no one goes to war, for My wrath is on all her multitude.

<sup>15</sup> The sword is on the outside; plague and famine are on the inside. Whoever is in the field will die by the sword, and famine and plague will devour whoever is in the city.

<sup>16</sup> The survivors among them will escape and live on the mountains like doves of the valley, all of them moaning, each over his own iniquity.

<sup>17</sup> All their hands will become weak, and all their knees will turn to water.

<sup>18</sup> They will put on sackcloth, and horror will overwhelm them. Shame will cover all their faces, and all their heads will be bald.

<sup>19</sup> They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will seem like something filthy. Their silver and gold will be unable to save them in the day of the LORD's wrath. They will not satisfy their appetites or fill their stomachs, for

these were the stumbling blocks that brought about their iniquity.

<sup>20</sup> He appointed His beautiful ornaments for majesty, but they made their abhorrent images from them, their detestable things. Therefore, I have made these into something filthy for them.

<sup>21</sup> I will hand these things over to foreigners as plunder and to the wicked of the earth as spoil, and they will profane them.

<sup>22</sup> I will turn My face from the wicked as they profane My treasured place. Violent men will enter it and profane it.

<sup>23</sup> Forge the chain, for the land is filled with crimes of bloodshed, and the city is filled with violence.

<sup>24</sup> So I will bring the most evil of nations to take possession of their houses. I will put an end to the pride of the strong, and their sacred places will be profaned.

<sup>25</sup> Anguish is coming! They will seek peace, but there will be none.

<sup>26</sup> Disaster after disaster will come, and there will be rumor after rumor. Then they will seek a vision from a prophet, but instruction will perish from the priests and counsel from the elders.

<sup>27</sup> The king will mourn; the prince will be clothed in grief; and the hands of the people of the land will tremble. I will deal with them according to their own conduct, and I will judge them by their own standards. Then they will 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, I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting in front of me, and there the hand of the Lord GOD came down on me.

<sup>2</sup> I looked, and there was a form that had the appearance of a man. From

what seemed to be His waist down was fire, and from His waist up was something that looked bright, like the gleam of amber.

<sup>3</sup> He stretched out what appeared to be a hand and took me by the hair of my head. Then the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and carried me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the inner gate that faces north, where the offensive statue that provokes jealousy was located.

<sup>4</sup> I saw the glory of the God of Israel there, like the vision I had seen in the plain.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD said to me, "Son of man, look toward the north." I looked to the north, and there was this offensive statue north of the altar gate, at the entrance.

<sup>6</sup> He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great

abominations that the house of Israel is committing here, so that I must depart from My sanctuary? You will see even greater abominations."

<sup>7</sup> Then He brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked there was a hole in the wall.

<sup>8</sup> He said to me, "Son of man, dig through the wall." So I dug through the wall, and there was a doorway.

<sup>9</sup> He said to me, "Go in and see the terrible abominations they are committing here."

<sup>10</sup> I went in and looked, and there engraved all around the wall was every form of detestable thing, crawling creatures and beasts, as well as all the idols of the house of Israel.

<sup>11</sup> Seventy elders from the house of Israel were standing before them, with Jaazaniah son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had an incense

burner in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising up.

<sup>12</sup> Then He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his idol? For they are saying: The LORD does not see us. The LORD has abandoned the land."

<sup>13</sup> Again He said to me, "You will see even greater abominations, which they are committing."

<sup>14</sup> So He brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the LORD's house, and I saw women sitting there weeping for Tammuz.

<sup>15</sup> And He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? You will see even greater abominations than these."

<sup>16</sup> So He brought me to the inner court of the LORD's house, and there were about 25 men at the entrance of the LORD's temple, between the portico and



the altar, with their backs to the LORD's temple and their faces turned to the east. They were bowing to the east in worship of the sun.

<sup>17</sup> And He said to me, "Do you see this , son of man? Is it not enough for the house of Judah to commit the abominations they are practicing here, that they must also fill the land with violence and repeatedly provoke Me to anger, even putting the branch to their nose?

<sup>18</sup> Therefore I will respond with wrath. I will not show pity or spare them . Though they cry out in My ears with a loud voice, I will not listen to them."

**9**<sup>1</sup> Then He called to me directly with a loud voice, "Come near, executioners of the city, each of you with a destructive weapon in his hand."

<sup>2</sup> And I saw six men coming from the direction of the Upper Gate, which faces

north, each with a war club in his hand. There was another man among them, clothed in linen, with writing equipment at his side. They came and stood beside the bronze altar.

<sup>3</sup> Then the glory of the God of Israel rose from above the cherubim where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. He called to the man clothed in linen with the writing equipment at his side.

<sup>4</sup> "Pass throughout the city of Jerusalem," the LORD said to him, "and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations committed in it."

<sup>5</sup> To the others He said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him and start killing; do not show pity or spare them !

<sup>6</sup> Slaughter the old men, the young men and women, as well as the older women and little children, but do not come near

anyone who has the mark. Now begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.

<sup>7</sup> Then He said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go!" So they went out killing people in the city.

<sup>8</sup> While they were killing, I was left alone. And I fell facedown and cried out, "Ah, Lord GOD! Are You going to destroy the entire remnant of Israel when You pour out Your wrath on Jerusalem?"

<sup>9</sup> He answered me: "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is extremely great; the land is full of bloodshed, and the city full of perversity. For they say: The LORD has abandoned the land; He does not see.

<sup>10</sup> But as for Me, I will not show pity or spare them. I will bring their actions down on their own heads."

<sup>11</sup> Then the man clothed in linen with the writing equipment at his side reported back, "I have done as You commanded me."

**10** <sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and there above the expanse over the heads of the cherubim was something like sapphire stone resembling the shape of a throne that appeared above them.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, "Go inside the wheelwork beneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with hot coals from among the cherubim and scatter them over the city." So he went in as I watched.

<sup>3</sup> Now the cherubim were standing to the south of the temple when the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court.

<sup>4</sup> Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim to the threshold of the temple. The temple was filled with

the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the LORD's glory.

<sup>5</sup> The sound of the cherubim's wings could be heard as far as the outer court; it was like the voice of God Almighty when He speaks.

<sup>6</sup> After the LORD commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take fire from inside the wheelwork, from among the cherubim," the man went in and stood beside a wheel.

<sup>7</sup> Then one of the cherubim reached out his hand to the fire that was among them. He took some , 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 human hands under their wings.

<sup>9</sup> I looked, and there were four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub. The luster of the wheels was like the gleam of beryl.

<sup>10</sup> In appearance, all four had the same form, like a wheel within a wheel.

<sup>11</sup> When they moved, they would go in any of the four directions, without pivoting as they moved. But wherever the head faced, they would go in that direction, without pivoting as they went.

<sup>12</sup> Their entire bodies, including their backs, hands, wings, and the wheels that the four of them had, were full of eyes all around.

<sup>13</sup> As I listened the wheels were called "the wheelwork."

<sup>14</sup> Each one had four faces: the first face was that of a cherub, the second that of a man, the third that of a lion, and the fourth that of an eagle.

<sup>15</sup> The cherubim ascended; these were the living creatures I had seen by the Chebar Canal.

<sup>16</sup> When the cherubim moved, the wheels moved beside them, and when

they lifted their wings to rise from the earth, even then the wheels did not veer away from them.

<sup>17</sup> When the cherubim stood still, the wheels stood still, and when they ascended, the wheels ascended with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in them.

<sup>18</sup> Then the glory of the LORD moved away from the threshold of the temple and stood above the cherubim.

<sup>19</sup> The cherubim lifted their wings and ascended from the earth right before my eyes; the wheels were beside them as they went. The glory of the God of Israel was above them, and it stood at the entrance to the eastern gate of the LORD's house.

<sup>20</sup> These were the living creatures I had seen beneath the God of Israel by the Chebar Canal, and I recognized that they were cherubim.

<sup>21</sup> Each had four faces and each had four wings, with the form of human hands under their wings.

<sup>22</sup> Their faces looked like the same faces I had seen by the Chebar Canal. Each creature went straight ahead.

**11** <sup>1</sup> The Spirit then lifted me up and brought me to the eastern gate of the LORD's house, which faces east, and at the gate's entrance were 25 men. Among them I saw Jaazaniah son of Azzur, and Pelatiah son of Benaiah, leaders of the people.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to me, "Son of man, these are the men who plan evil and give wicked advice in this city.

<sup>3</sup> They are saying: Isn't the time near to build houses? The city is the pot, and we are the meat.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, prophesy against them. Prophesy, son of man!"



<sup>5</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD came on me, and He told me, "You are to say: This is what the LORD says: That is what you are thinking, house of Israel; and I know the thoughts that arise in your mind.

<sup>6</sup> You have multiplied your slain in this city, filling its streets with the dead.

<sup>7</sup> "Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: The slain you have put within it are the meat, and the city is the pot, but I will remove you from it.

<sup>8</sup> You fear the sword, so I will bring the sword against you." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> "I will bring you out of the city and hand you over to foreigners; I will execute judgments against you.

<sup>10</sup> You will fall by the sword, and I will judge you at the border of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> The city will not be a pot for you, and you will not be the meat within it. I will judge you at the border of Israel,

<sup>12</sup> so you will know that I am the LORD, whose statutes you have not followed and whose ordinances you have not practiced. Instead, you have acted according to the ordinances of the nations around you."

<sup>13</sup> Now while I was prophesying, Pelatiah son of Benaiah died. Then I fell facedown and cried out with a loud voice: "Ah, Lord GOD! Will You bring to an end the remnant of Israel?"

<sup>14</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again:

<sup>15</sup> "Son of man, your own relatives, those who have the right to redeem you, and the entire house of Israel, all of them, are those the residents of Jerusalem have said this to: Stay away

from the LORD; this land has been given to us as a possession.

<sup>16</sup> "Therefore say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Though I sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the countries, yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.

<sup>17</sup> "Therefore say: This is what the Lord GOD says: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> "When they arrive there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it.

<sup>19</sup> And I will give them one heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove their heart of stone from their bodies and give them a heart of flesh,

<sup>20</sup> so they may follow My statutes, keep My ordinances, and practice them. Then they will be My people, and I will be their God.

<sup>21</sup> But as for those whose hearts pursue their desire for detestable things and abominations, I will bring their actions down on their own heads." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>22</sup> Then the cherubim, with the wheels beside them, lifted their wings, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

<sup>23</sup> The glory of the LORD rose up from within the city and stood on the mountain east of the city.

<sup>24</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to Chaldea and to the exiles in a vision from the Spirit of God. After the vision I had seen left me,

<sup>25</sup> I spoke to the exiles about all the things the LORD had shown me.

**12** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, you are living among a rebellious house. They have eyes to see but do not see, and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>3</sup> "Son of man, pack your bags for exile and go into exile in their sight during the day. You will go into exile from your place to another place while they watch; perhaps they will understand, though they are a rebellious house.

<sup>4</sup> During the day, bring out your bags like an exile's bags while they look on. Then in the evening go out in their sight like those going into exile.

<sup>5</sup> As they watch, dig through the wall and take the bags out through it.

<sup>6</sup> And while they look on, lift the bags to your shoulder and take them out in the dark; cover your face so that you cannot

see the land. For I have made you a sign to the house of Israel."

<sup>7</sup> So I did just as I was commanded. I brought out my bags like an exile's bags in the daytime. In the evening I dug through the wall by hand; I took them out in the dark, carrying them on my shoulder in their sight.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me in the morning:

<sup>9</sup> "Son of man, hasn't the house of Israel, that rebellious house, asked you: What are you doing?

<sup>10</sup> Say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: This oracle is about the prince in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are living there.

<sup>11</sup> You are to say: I am a sign for you. Just as I have done, so it will be done to them; they will go into exile, into captivity.

<sup>12</sup> The prince who is among them will lift his bags to his shoulder in the dark and go out. They will dig through the wall to bring him out through it. He will cover his face so he cannot see the land with his eyes.

<sup>13</sup> But I will spread My net over him, and he will be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, yet he will not see it, and he will die there.

<sup>14</sup> I will also scatter all the attendants who surround him and all his troops to every direction of the wind, and I will draw a sword to chase after them.

<sup>15</sup> They will 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 spare a few of them from the sword, famine, and plague so they can tell about all their abominations

among the nations where they go. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>17</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>18</sup> "Son of man, eat your bread with trembling and drink your water with shaking and anxiety.

<sup>19</sup> Then say to the people of the land: This is what the Lord GOD says about the residents of Jerusalem in the land of Israel: They will eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water in dread, for their land will be stripped of everything in it because of the violence of all who live there.

<sup>20</sup> The inhabited cities will be destroyed, and the land will become a desolation. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>21</sup> Again the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>22</sup> "Son of man, what is this proverb you people have about the land of Israel,



which goes: The days keep passing by, and every vision fails?

<sup>23</sup> Therefore say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: I will put a stop to this proverb, and they will not use it again in Israel. But say to them: The days draw near, as well as the fulfillment of every vision.

<sup>24</sup> For there will no longer be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel.

<sup>25</sup> But I, the LORD, will speak whatever message I will speak, and it will be done. It will no longer be delayed. For in your days, rebellious house, I will speak a message and bring it to pass." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>26</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>27</sup> "Son of man, notice that the house of Israel is saying: The vision that he sees concerns many years from now ; he prophesies about distant times.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: None of My words will be delayed any longer. The message I speak will be fulfilled." This is the declaration of 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. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: Hear the word of the LORD!

<sup>3</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Your prophets, Israel, are like jackals among ruins.

<sup>5</sup> You did not go up to the gaps or restore the wall around the house of Israel so that it might stand in battle on the day of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They see false visions and speak lying divinations. They claim: This is the LORD's declaration, when the LORD did not send them, yet they wait for the fulfillment of their message.

<sup>7</sup> Didn't you see a false vision and speak a lying divination when you proclaimed: This is the LORD's declaration, even though I had not spoken?

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: I am against you because you have spoken falsely and had lying visions." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> "My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and speak lying divinations. They will not be present in the fellowship of My people or be recorded in the register of the house of Israel, and they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.

<sup>10</sup> "Since they have led My people astray saying: Peace, when there is no peace, for when someone builds a wall they plaster it with whitewash,

<sup>11</sup> therefore, tell those who plaster it that it will fall. Torrential rain will come, and I will send hailstones plunging down, and a windstorm will be released.

<sup>12</sup> Now when the wall has fallen, will you not be asked: Where is the coat of whitewash that you put on it ?

<sup>13</sup> "So this is what the Lord GOD says: I will release a windstorm in My wrath. Torrential rain will come in My anger, and hailstones will fall in destructive fury.

<sup>14</sup> I will tear down the wall you plastered with whitewash and knock it to the ground so that its foundation is exposed. The city will fall, and you will be destroyed within it. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> After I exhaust My wrath against the wall and against those who plaster it with whitewash, I will say to you: The wall is no more and neither are those who plastered it--

<sup>16</sup> those prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem and saw a vision of peace for her when there was no peace." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>17</sup> "Now, son of man, turn toward the women of your people who prophesy out of their own imagination. Prophecy against them

<sup>18</sup> and say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Woe to the women who sew magic bands on the wrist of every hand and who make veils for the heads of people of every height in order to ensnare lives. Will you ensnare the lives of My people but preserve your own?

<sup>19</sup> You profane Me in front of My people for handfuls of barley and scraps of bread; you kill those who should not die and spare those who should not live, when you lie to My people, who listen to lies.

<sup>20</sup> "Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: I am against your magic bands that you ensnare people with like birds, and I will tear them from your arms. I will free the people you have ensnared like birds.

<sup>21</sup> I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people from your hands, so that they will no longer be prey in your hands. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> Because you have disheartened the righteous person with lies, even though I have not caused him grief, and because you have encouraged the wicked person not to turn from his evil way to save his life,

<sup>23</sup> therefore you will no longer see false visions or practice divination. I will deliver My people from your hands. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

**14** <sup>1</sup> Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me.

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>3</sup> "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and have put sinful stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I be consulted by them at all?

<sup>4</sup> "Therefore, speak to them and tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says: When anyone from the house of Israel sets up idols in his heart, puts a sinful stumbling block before his face, and then comes to the prophet, I, the LORD, will answer him appropriately. I will answer him according to his many idols,

<sup>5</sup> so that I may take hold of the house of Israel by their hearts, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore, say to the house of Israel: This is what the Lord GOD says: Repent and turn away from your idols; turn your faces away from all your abominations.

<sup>7</sup> For when anyone from the house of Israel or from the foreigners who reside in Israel separates himself from Me, setting up idols in his heart and putting a sinful stumbling block before his face, and then comes to the prophet to inquire of Me, I, the LORD, will answer him Myself.

<sup>8</sup> I will turn against that one and make him a sign and a proverb; I will cut him off from among My people. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "But if the prophet is deceived and speaks a message, it was I, the LORD, who deceived that prophet. I will stretch



out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel.

<sup>10</sup> They will bear their punishment--the punishment of the one who inquires will be the same as that of the prophet--

<sup>11</sup> in order that the house of Israel may no longer stray from following Me and no longer defile themselves with all their transgressions. Then they will be My people and I will be their God." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>12</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>13</sup> "Son of man, if a land sins against Me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out My hand against it to cut off its supply of bread, to send famine through it, and to wipe out both man and animal from it,

<sup>14</sup> even if these three men--Noah, Daniel, and Job--were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> "If I allow dangerous animals to pass through the land and depopulate it so that it becomes desolate, with no one passing through it for fear of the animals,

<sup>16</sup> even if these three men were in it, as I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"they could not deliver their sons or daughters. They alone would be delivered, but the land would be desolate.

<sup>17</sup> "Or if I bring a sword against that land and say: Let a sword pass through it, so that I wipe out both man and animal from it,

<sup>18</sup> even if these three men were in it, as I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"they could not deliver their sons or daughters, but they alone would be delivered.

<sup>19</sup> "Or if I send a plague into that land and pour out My wrath on it with

bloodshed to wipe out both man and animal from it,

<sup>20</sup> even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"they could not deliver their son or daughter. They would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.

<sup>21</sup> "For this is what the Lord GOD says: How much worse will it be when I send My four devastating judgments against Jerusalem--sword, famine, dangerous animals, and plague--in order to wipe out both man and animal from it!

<sup>22</sup> Even so, there will be survivors left in it, sons and daughters who will be brought out. Indeed, they will come out to you, and you will observe their conduct and actions. Then you will be consoled about the devastation I have brought on Jerusalem, about all I have brought on it.

<sup>23</sup> They will bring you consolation when you see their conduct and actions, and you will know that it was not without cause that I have done what I did to it." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**15** <sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, how does the wood of the vine, that branch among the trees of the forest, compare to any other wood?

<sup>3</sup> Can wood be taken from it to make something useful? Or can anyone make a peg from it to hang things on?

<sup>4</sup> In fact, it is put into the fire as fuel. The fire devours both of its ends, and the middle is charred. Can it be useful for anything?

<sup>5</sup> Even when it was whole it could not be made into a useful object. How much less can it ever be made into anything useful when the fire has devoured it and it is charred!

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire as fuel, so I will give up the residents of Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup> I will turn against them. They may have escaped from the fire, but it will still consume them. And you will know that I am the LORD when I turn against them.

<sup>8</sup> I will make the land desolate because they have acted unfaithfully." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**16** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, explain Jerusalem's abominations to her.

<sup>3</sup> You are to say: This is what the Lord GOD says to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites. Your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

<sup>4</sup> As for your birth, your umbilical cord wasn't cut on the day you were born, and you weren't washed clean with water. You were not rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths.

<sup>5</sup> No one cared enough about you to do even one of these things out of compassion for you. But you were thrown out into the open field because you were despised on the day you were born.

<sup>6</sup> "I passed by you and saw you lying in your blood, and I said to you as you lay in your blood: Live! Yes, I said to you as you lay in your blood: Live!

<sup>7</sup> I made you thrive like plants of the field. You grew up and matured and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, but you were stark naked.

<sup>8</sup> "Then I passed by you and saw you, and you were indeed at the age for love.

So I spread the edge of My garment over you and covered your nakedness. I pledged Myself to you, entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> "I washed you with water, rinsed off your blood, and anointed you with oil.

<sup>10</sup> I clothed you in embroidered cloth and provided you with leather sandals. I also wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk.

<sup>11</sup> I adorned you with jewelry, putting bracelets on your wrists and a chain around your neck.

<sup>12</sup> I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful tiara on your head.

<sup>13</sup> So you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was made of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey, and oil.

You became extremely beautiful and attained royalty.

<sup>14</sup> Your fame spread among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor, which I had bestowed on you." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> "But you were confident in your beauty and acted like a prostitute because of your fame. You lavished your sexual favors on everyone who passed by. Your beauty became his.

<sup>16</sup> You took some of your garments and made colorful high places for yourself, and you engaged in prostitution on them. These places should not have been built, and this should never have happened!

<sup>17</sup> You also took your beautiful jewelry made from the gold and silver I had given you, and you made male images



so that you could engage in prostitution with them.

<sup>18</sup> Then you took your embroidered garments to cover them, and set My oil and incense before them.

<sup>19</sup> You also set before them as a pleasing aroma the food I gave you--the fine flour, oil, and honey that I fed you. That is what happened." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>20</sup> "You even took your sons and daughters you bore to Me and sacrificed them to these images as food. Wasn't your prostitution enough?

<sup>21</sup> You slaughtered My children and gave them up when you passed them through the fire to the images.

<sup>22</sup> In all your abominations and acts of prostitution, you did not remember the days of your youth when you were stark naked and lying in your blood.

<sup>23</sup> "Then after all your evil--Woe, woe to you!"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--

<sup>24</sup> "you built yourself a mound and made yourself an elevated place in every square.

<sup>25</sup> You built your elevated place at the head of every street and turned your beauty into an abomination. You spread your legs to everyone who passed by and increased your prostitution.

<sup>26</sup> You engaged in promiscuous acts with Egyptian men, your well-endowed neighbors, and increased your prostitution to provoke Me to anger.

<sup>27</sup> "Therefore, I stretched out My hand against you and reduced your provisions. I gave you over to the desire of those who hate you, the Philistine women, who were embarrassed by your indecent behavior.

<sup>28</sup> Then you engaged in prostitution with the Assyrian men because you were

not satisfied. Even though you did this with them, you were still not satisfied.

<sup>29</sup> So you extended your prostitution to Chaldea, the land of merchants, but you were not even satisfied with this!

<sup>30</sup> "How your heart was inflamed with lust "--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"when you did all these things, the acts of a brazen prostitute,

<sup>31</sup> building your mound at the head of every street and making your elevated place in every square. But you were unlike a prostitute because you scorned payment.

<sup>32</sup> You adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband!

<sup>33</sup> Men give gifts to all prostitutes, but you gave gifts to all your lovers. You bribed them to come to you from all around for your sexual favors.

<sup>34</sup> So you were the opposite of other women in your acts of prostitution; no

one solicited you. When you paid a fee instead of one being paid to you, you were the opposite.

<sup>35</sup> "Therefore, you prostitute, hear the word of the LORD!

<sup>36</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness exposed by your acts of prostitution with your lovers, and because of all your detestable idols and the blood of your children that you gave to them,

<sup>37</sup> I am therefore going to gather all the lovers you pleased--all those you loved as well as all those you hated. I will gather them against you from all around and expose your nakedness to them so they see you completely naked.

<sup>38</sup> I will judge you the way adulteresses and those who shed blood are judged. Then I will bring about your bloodshed in wrath and jealousy.

<sup>39</sup> I will hand you over to them, and they will level your mounds and tear down your elevated places. They will strip off your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you stark naked.

<sup>40</sup> They will bring a mob against you to stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords.

<sup>41</sup> Then they will burn down your houses and execute judgments against you in the sight of many women. I will stop you from being a prostitute, and you will never again pay fees for lovers.

<sup>42</sup> So I will satisfy My wrath against you, and My jealousy will turn away from you. Then I will be silent and no longer angry.

<sup>43</sup> Because you did not remember the days of your youth but enraged Me with all these things, I will also bring your actions down on your own head." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

"Haven't you committed immoral acts in addition to all your abominations?

<sup>44</sup> "Look, everyone who uses proverbs will say this proverb about you: Like mother, like daughter.

<sup>45</sup> You are the daughter of your mother, who despised her husband and children. You are the sister of your sisters, who despised their husbands and children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.

<sup>46</sup> Your older sister was Samaria, who lived with her daughters to the north of you, and your younger sister was Sodom, who lived with her daughters to the south of you.

<sup>47</sup> Didn't you walk in their ways and practice their abominations? It was only a short time before you behaved more corruptly than they did.

<sup>48</sup> "As I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"your sister Sodom and her

daughters have not behaved as you and your daughters have.

<sup>49</sup> Now this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, plenty of food, and comfortable security, but didn't support the poor and needy.

<sup>50</sup> They were haughty and did detestable things before Me, so I removed them when I saw this .

<sup>51</sup> But Samaria did not commit even half your sins. You have multiplied your abominations beyond theirs and made your sisters appear righteous by all the abominations you have committed.

<sup>52</sup> You must also bear your disgrace, since you have been an advocate for your sisters. For they appear more righteous than you because of your sins, which you committed more abhorrently than they did . So you also, be ashamed

and bear your disgrace, since you have made your sisters appear righteous.

<sup>53</sup> "I will restore their fortunes, the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters and those of Samaria and her daughters. I will also restore your fortunes among them,

<sup>54</sup> so you will bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all you did when you comforted them.

<sup>55</sup> As for your sisters, Sodom and her daughters and Samaria and her daughters will return to their former state. You and your daughters will also return to your former state.

<sup>56</sup> Didn't you treat your sister Sodom as an object of scorn when you were proud,

<sup>57</sup> before your wickedness was exposed? It was like the time you were scorned by the daughters of Aram and all those around her, and by the daughters



of the Philistines--those who treated you with contempt from every side.

<sup>58</sup> You yourself must bear the consequences of your indecency and abominations"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>59</sup> "For this is what the Lord GOD says: I will deal with you according to what you have done, since you have despised the oath by breaking the covenant.

<sup>60</sup> But I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

<sup>61</sup> Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your older and younger sisters. I will give them to you as daughters, but not because of your covenant.

<sup>62</sup> I will establish My covenant with you, and you will know that I am the LORD,

<sup>63</sup> so that when I make atonement for all you have done, you will remember

and be ashamed, and never open your mouth again because of your disgrace." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**17** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, pose a riddle and speak a parable to the house of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> You are to say: This is what the Lord GOD says: A great eagle with great wings, long pinions, and full plumage of many colors came to Lebanon and took the top of the cedar.

<sup>4</sup> He plucked off its topmost shoot, brought it to the land of merchants, and set it in a city of traders.

<sup>5</sup> Then he took some of the land's seed and put it in a fertile field; he set it like a willow, a plant by abundant waters.

<sup>6</sup> It sprouted and became a spreading vine, low in height with its branches turned toward him, yet its roots stayed

under it. So it became a vine, produced branches, and sent forth shoots.

<sup>7</sup> But there was another great eagle with great wings and thick plumage. And this vine bent its roots toward him! It stretched out its branches to him from its planting bed, so that he might water it.

<sup>8</sup> It had been planted in a good field by abundant waters in order to produce branches, bear fruit, and become a splendid vine.

<sup>9</sup> You are to say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Will it flourish? Will he not tear out its roots and strip off its fruit so that it shrivels? All its fresh leaves will wither! Great strength and many people will not be needed to pull it from its roots.

<sup>10</sup> Even though it is planted, will it flourish? Won't it completely wither

when the east wind strikes it? It will wither on the bed where it sprouted."

<sup>11</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>12</sup> "Now say to that rebellious house: Don't you know what these things mean? Tell them : The king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, took its king and officials, and brought them back with him to Babylon.

<sup>13</sup> He took one of the royal family and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath. Then he took away the leading men of the land,

<sup>14</sup> so the kingdom might be humble and not exalt itself but might keep his covenant in order to endure.

<sup>15</sup> However, this king revolted against him by sending his ambassadors to Egypt so they might give him horses and a large army. Will he flourish? Will the one who does such things escape? Can he break a covenant and still escape?

<sup>16</sup> "As I live"--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--"he will die in Babylon, in the land of the king who put him on the throne, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke.

<sup>17</sup> Pharaoh will not help him with his great army and vast horde in battle, when ramps are built and siege walls constructed to destroy many lives.

<sup>18</sup> He despised the oath by breaking the covenant. He did all these things even though he gave his hand in pledge . He will not escape!"

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: "As I live, I will bring down on his head My oath that he despised and My covenant that he broke.

<sup>20</sup> I will spread My net over him, and he will be captured in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon and execute judgment on him there for the treachery he committed against Me.

<sup>21</sup> All the fugitives among his troops will fall by the sword, and those who survive will be scattered to every direction of the wind. Then you will know that I, Yahweh, have spoken."

<sup>22</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: I will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and plant it . I will pluck a tender sprig from its topmost shoots, and I will plant it on a high towering mountain.

<sup>23</sup> I will plant it on Israel's high mountain so that it may bear branches, produce fruit, and become a majestic cedar. Birds of every kind will nest under it, taking shelter in the shade of its branches.

<sup>24</sup> Then all the trees of the field will know that I am the LORD. I bring down the tall tree, and make the low tree tall. I cause the green tree to wither and make the withered tree thrive. I, Yahweh, 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 using this proverb concerning the land of Israel: The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

<sup>3</sup> As I live"--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--"you will no longer use this proverb in Israel.

<sup>4</sup> Look, every life belongs to Me. The life of the father is like the life of the son--both belong to Me. The person who sins is the one who will die.

<sup>5</sup> "Now suppose a man is righteous and does what is just and right:

<sup>6</sup> He does not eat at the mountain shrines or raise his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel. He does not defile his neighbor's wife or come near a woman during her menstrual impurity.

<sup>7</sup> He doesn't oppress anyone but returns his collateral to the debtor. He

does not commit robbery, but gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing.

<sup>8</sup> He doesn't lend at interest or for profit but keeps his hand from wrongdoing and carries out true justice between men.

<sup>9</sup> He follows My statutes and keeps My ordinances, acting faithfully. Such a person is righteous; he will certainly live." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>10</sup> "Now suppose the man has a violent son, who sheds blood and does any of these things ,

<sup>11</sup> though the father has done none of them. Indeed, when the son eats at the mountain shrines and defiles his neighbor's wife,

<sup>12</sup> and when he oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, and does not return collateral, and when he raises his eyes to the idols, commits abominations,



<sup>13</sup> and lends at interest or for profit, will he live? He will not live! Since he has committed all these abominations, he will certainly die. His blood will be on him.

<sup>14</sup> "Now suppose he has a son who sees all the sins his father has committed, and though he sees them, he does not do likewise.

<sup>15</sup> He does not eat at the mountain shrines or raise his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel. He does not defile his neighbor's wife.

<sup>16</sup> He doesn't oppress anyone, hold collateral, or commit robbery. He gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing.

<sup>17</sup> He keeps his hand from harming the poor, not taking interest or profit on a loan . He practices My ordinances and follows My statutes. Such a person will

not die for his father's iniquity. He will certainly live.

<sup>18</sup> "As for his father, he will die for his own iniquity because he practiced fraud, robbed his brother, and did what was wrong among his people.

<sup>19</sup> But you may ask: Why doesn't the son suffer punishment for the father's iniquity? Since the son has done what is just and right, carefully observing all My statutes, he will certainly live.

<sup>20</sup> The person who sins is the one who will die. A son won't suffer punishment for the father's iniquity, and a father won't suffer punishment for the son's iniquity. The righteousness of the righteous person will be on him, and the wickedness of the wicked person will be on him.

<sup>21</sup> "Now if the wicked person turns from all the sins he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is just and

right, he will certainly live; he will not die.

<sup>22</sup> None of the transgressions he has committed will be held against him. He will live because of the righteousness he has practiced.

<sup>23</sup> Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked?" This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "Instead, don't I take pleasure when he turns from his ways and lives?

<sup>24</sup> But when a righteous person turns from his righteousness and practices iniquity, committing the same abominations that the wicked do, will he live? None of the righteous acts he did will be remembered. He will die because of the treachery he has engaged in and the sin he has committed.

<sup>25</sup> "But you say: The Lord's way isn't fair. Now listen, house of Israel: Is it My way

that is unfair? Instead, isn't it your ways that are unfair?

<sup>26</sup> When a righteous person turns from his righteousness and practices iniquity, he will die for this. He will die because of the iniquity he has practiced.

<sup>27</sup> But if a wicked person turns from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will preserve his life.

<sup>28</sup> He will certainly live because he thought it over and turned from all the transgressions he had committed; he will not die.

<sup>29</sup> But the house of Israel says: The Lord's way isn't fair. Is it My ways that are unfair, house of Israel? Instead, isn't it your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup> "Therefore, house of Israel, I will judge each one of you according to his ways." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "Repent and turn from all

your transgressions, so they will not be a stumbling block that causes your punishment.

<sup>31</sup> Throw off all the transgressions you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, house of Israel?

<sup>32</sup> For I take no pleasure in anyone's death." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "So repent and live!

**19** <sup>1</sup> "Now, lament for the princes of Israel

<sup>2</sup> and say: What was your mother? A lioness! She lay down among the lions; she reared her cubs among the young lions.

<sup>3</sup> She brought up one of her cubs, and he became a young lion. After he learned to tear prey, he devoured people.

<sup>4</sup> When the nations heard about him, he was caught in their pit. Then they

led him away 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, and he became a young lion. After he learned to tear prey, he devoured people.

<sup>7</sup> He devastated their strongholds and destroyed their cities. The land and everything in it shuddered at the sound of his roaring.

<sup>8</sup> Then the nations from the surrounding provinces set out against him. They spread their net over him; he was caught in their pit.

<sup>9</sup> They put a wooden yoke on him with hooks and led him away to the king of Babylon. They brought him into the fortresses so his roar could no longer be heard on the mountains of Israel.

<sup>10</sup> Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard, planted by the water; it was fruitful and full of branches because of plentiful waters.

<sup>11</sup> It had strong branches, fit for the scepters of rulers; its height towered among the clouds. So it was conspicuous for its height as well as its many branches.

<sup>12</sup> But it was uprooted in fury, thrown to the ground, and the east wind dried up its fruit. Its strong branches were torn off and dried up; fire consumed them.

<sup>13</sup> Now it is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty land.

<sup>14</sup> Fire has gone out from its main branch and has devoured its fruit, so that it no longer has a strong branch, a scepter for ruling. This is a lament and should be used as a lament."

**20** <sup>1</sup> In the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the

month, some of Israel's elders came to consult the LORD, and they sat down in front of me.

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>3</sup> "Son of man, speak with the elders of Israel and tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says: Are you coming to consult Me? As I live, I will not be consulted by you." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>4</sup> "Will you pass judgment against them, will you pass judgment, son of man? Explain to them the abominations of their fathers.

<sup>5</sup> Say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: On the day I chose Israel, I swore an oath to the descendants of Jacob's house and made 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 I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands.

<sup>7</sup> I also said to them: Each of you must throw away the detestable things that are before your eyes and not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

<sup>8</sup> "But they rebelled against Me and were unwilling to listen to Me. None of them threw away the detestable things that were before their eyes, and they did not forsake the idols of Egypt. So I considered pouring out My wrath on them, exhausting My anger against them within the land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> But I acted for the sake of My name, so that it would not be profaned in the eyes of the nations they were living among,

in whose sight I had made Myself known to Israel by bringing them out of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup> "So I brought them out of the land of Egypt and led them into the wilderness.

<sup>11</sup> Then I gave them My statutes and explained My ordinances to them--the person who does them will live by them.

<sup>12</sup> I also gave them My Sabbaths to serve as a sign between Me and them, so they will know that I am the LORD who sets them apart as holy.

<sup>13</sup> "But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness. They did not follow My statutes and they rejected My ordinances--the person who does them will live by them. They also completely profaned My Sabbaths. So I considered pouring out My wrath on them in the wilderness to put an end to them.

<sup>14</sup> But I acted because of My name, so that it would not be profaned in the

eyes of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.

<sup>15</sup> However, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land I had given them --the most beautiful of all lands, flowing with milk and honey--

<sup>16</sup> because they rejected My ordinances, profaned My Sabbaths, and did not follow My statutes. For their hearts went after their idols.

<sup>17</sup> But I spared them from destruction and did not bring them to an end in the wilderness.

<sup>18</sup> "Then I said to their children in the wilderness: Don't follow the statutes of your fathers, defile yourselves with their idols, or keep their ordinances.

<sup>19</sup> I am the LORD your God. Follow My statutes, keep My ordinances, and practice them.

<sup>20</sup> Keep My Sabbaths holy, and they will be a sign between Me and you, so you may know that I am the LORD your God.

<sup>21</sup> "But the children rebelled against Me. They did not follow My statutes or carefully keep My ordinances--the person who does them will live by them. They also profaned My Sabbaths. So I considered pouring out My wrath on them and exhausting My anger against them in the wilderness.

<sup>22</sup> But I withheld My hand and acted because of My name, so that it would not be profaned in the eyes of the nations in whose sight I brought them out.

<sup>23</sup> However, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would disperse them among the nations and scatter them among the countries.

<sup>24</sup> For they did not practice My ordinances but rejected My statutes and

profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols.

<sup>25</sup> I also gave them statutes that were not good and ordinances that did not bring them life.

<sup>26</sup> When they made every firstborn pass through the fire , I defiled them through their gifts in order to devastate them so they would know that I am the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> "Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says: In this way also your fathers blasphemed Me by committing treachery against Me:

<sup>28</sup> When I brought them into the land that I swore to give them and they saw any high hill or leafy tree, they offered their sacrifices and presented their offensive offerings there. They also sent up their pleasing aromas and poured out their drink offerings there.

<sup>29</sup> So I asked them: What is this high place you are going to? And it is called High Place to this day.

<sup>30</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel: This is what the Lord GOD says: Are you defiling yourselves the way your fathers did, and prostituting yourselves with their detestable things?

<sup>31</sup> When you offer your gifts, making your children pass through the fire, you continue to defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. So should I be consulted by you, house of Israel? As I live"--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--"I will not be consulted by you!

<sup>32</sup> "When you say: Let us be like the nations, like the peoples of other countries, worshiping wood and stone, what you have in mind will never happen.

<sup>33</sup> As I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"I will rule over you with a

strong hand, an outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath.

<sup>34</sup> I will bring you from the peoples and gather you from the countries where you were scattered, with a strong hand, an outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath.

<sup>35</sup> I will lead you into the wilderness of the peoples and enter into judgment with you there face to face.

<sup>36</sup> Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>37</sup> "I will make you pass under the rod and will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

<sup>38</sup> And I will also purge you of those who rebel and transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they live as foreign residents, but they

will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>39</sup> "As for you, house of Israel, this is what the Lord GOD says: Go and serve your idols, each of you. But afterwards you will surely listen to Me, and you will no longer defile My holy name with your gifts and idols.

<sup>40</sup> For on My holy mountain, Israel's high mountain"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"there the entire house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land. There I will accept them and will require your contributions and choicest gifts, all your holy offerings.

<sup>41</sup> When I bring you from the peoples and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, I will accept you as a pleasing aroma. And I will demonstrate My holiness through you in the sight of the nations.



<sup>42</sup> When I lead you into the land of Israel, the land I swore to give your fathers, you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>43</sup> There you will remember your ways and all your deeds you have defiled yourselves with, and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil things you have done.

<sup>44</sup> You will know that I am the LORD, house of Israel, when I have dealt with you because of My name rather than according to your evil ways and corrupt acts." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>45</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>46</sup> "Son of man, face the south and preach against it. Prophecy against the forest land in the Negev,

<sup>47</sup> and say to the forest there: Hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Lord GOD says: I am about to ignite a fire in

you, and it will devour every green tree and every dry tree in you. The blazing flame will not be extinguished, and every face from the south to the north will be scorched by it.

<sup>48</sup> Then all people will see that I, Yahweh, have kindled it. It will not be extinguished."

<sup>49</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, they are saying of me: Isn't he just posing riddles?"

**21** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, turn your face toward Jerusalem and preach against the sanctuaries. Prophecy against the land of Israel,

<sup>3</sup> and say to it: This is what the LORD says: I am against you. I will draw My sword from its sheath and cut off both the righteous and the wicked from you.

<sup>4</sup> Since I will cut off both the righteous and the wicked, My sword will therefore come out of its sheath against everyone from the south to the north.

<sup>5</sup> So all the people will know that I, the LORD, have taken My sword from its sheath--it will not be sheathed again.

<sup>6</sup> "But you, son of man, groan! Groan bitterly with a broken heart right before their eyes.

<sup>7</sup> And when they ask you: Why are you groaning? then say: Because of the news that is coming. Every heart will melt, and every hand will become weak. Every spirit will be discouraged, and every knee will turn to water. Yes, it is coming and it will happen." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>8</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>9</sup> "Son of man, prophesy: This is what the Lord says! You are to proclaim: A

sword! A sword is sharpened and also polished.

<sup>10</sup> It is sharpened for slaughter, polished to flash like lightning! Should we rejoice? The scepter of My son, the sword despises every tree.

<sup>11</sup> The sword is given to be polished, to be grasped in the hand. It is sharpened, and it is polished, to be put in 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 given over to the sword with My people. Therefore strike your thigh in grief .

<sup>13</sup> Surely it will be a trial! And what if the sword despises even the scepter? The scepter will not continue. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, son of man, prophesy and clap your hands together. Let the sword strike two times, even three. It is

a sword for massacre, a sword for great massacre--it surrounds them!

<sup>15</sup> I have appointed a sword for slaughter at all their gates, so that their hearts may melt and many may stumble. Alas! It is ready to flash like lightning; it is drawn for slaughter.

<sup>16</sup> Slash to the right; turn to the left--wherever your blade is directed.

<sup>17</sup> I also will clap My hands together, and I will satisfy My wrath. I, the LORD, have spoken."

<sup>18</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>19</sup> "Now you, son of man, mark out two roads that the sword of Babylon's king can take. Both of them should originate from the same land. And make a signpost at the fork in the road to each city.

<sup>20</sup> Mark out a road that the sword can take to Rabbah of the Ammonites and to Judah into fortified Jerusalem.

<sup>21</sup> For the king of Babylon stands at the split in the road, at the fork of the two roads, to practice divination: he shakes the arrows, consults the idols, and observes the liver.

<sup>22</sup> The answer marked Jerusalem appears in his right hand, indicating that he should set up battering rams, give the order to slaughter, raise a battle cry, set battering rams against the gates, build a ramp, and construct a siege wall.

<sup>23</sup> It will seem like false divination in the eyes of those who have sworn an oath to the Babylonians, but it will draw attention to their guilt so that they will be captured.

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: Because you have drawn attention to your guilt, exposing your

transgressions, so that your sins are revealed in all your actions, since you have done this, you will be captured by them.

<sup>25</sup> And you, profane and wicked prince of Israel, the day has come for your punishment."

<sup>26</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: Remove the turban, and take off the crown. Things will not remain as they are; exalt the lowly and bring down the exalted.

<sup>27</sup> A ruin, a ruin, I will make it a ruin! Yet this will not happen until He comes; I have given the judgment to Him.

<sup>28</sup> "Now prophesy, son of man, and say: This is what the Lord GOD says concerning the Ammonites and their contempt. You are to proclaim: Sword, sword! You are drawn for slaughter, polished to consume, to flash like lightning.

<sup>29</sup> While they offer false visions and lying divinations about you, the time has come to put you to the necks of the profane wicked ones; the day has come for your punishment.

<sup>30</sup> Return it to its sheath! I will judge you in the place where you were created, in the land of your origin.

<sup>31</sup> I will pour out My indignation on you; I will blow the fire of My fury on you. I will hand you over to brutal men, skilled at destruction.

<sup>32</sup> You will be fuel for the fire. Your blood will be spilled in the land. You will not be remembered, for I, the LORD, have spoken."

**22** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Now, son of man, will you pass judgment? Will you pass judgment against the city of blood? Then explain all her abominations to her.



<sup>3</sup> You are to say: This is what the Lord GOD says: A city that sheds blood within her walls so that her time of judgment has come and who makes idols for herself so that she is defiled!

<sup>4</sup> You are guilty of the blood you have shed, and you are defiled from the idols you have made. You have brought your judgment days near and have come to your years of punishment . Therefore, I have made you a disgrace to the nations and a mockery to all the lands.

<sup>5</sup> Those who are near and those far away from you will mock you, you infamous one full of turmoil.

<sup>6</sup> "Look, every prince of Israel within you has used his strength to shed blood.

<sup>7</sup> Father and mother are treated with contempt, and the foreign resident is exploited within you. The fatherless and widow are oppressed in you.

<sup>8</sup> You despise My holy things and profane My Sabbaths.

<sup>9</sup> There are men within you who slander in order to shed blood. People who live in you eat at the mountain shrines ; they commit immoral acts within you.

<sup>10</sup> Men within you have sexual intercourse with their father's wife, and violate women during their menstrual impurity.

<sup>11</sup> One man within you commits an abomination with his neighbor's wife; another wickedly defiles his daughter-in-law; and yet another violates his sister, his father's daughter.

<sup>12</sup> People who live in you accept bribes in order to shed blood. You take interest and profit on a loan and brutally extort your neighbors. You have forgotten Me." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>13</sup> "Now look, I clap My hands together against the unjust gain you have made and against the blood shed among you.

<sup>14</sup> Will your courage endure or your hands be strong in the days when I deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will act.

<sup>15</sup> I will disperse you among the nations and scatter you among the countries; I will purge your uncleanness.

<sup>16</sup> You will be profaned in the sight of the nations. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>17</sup> 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 copper, tin, iron, and lead inside the furnace; they are the dross of silver.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: Because all of you have become dross, I am about to gather you into Jerusalem.

<sup>20</sup> Just as one gathers silver, copper, iron, lead, and tin into the furnace to blow fire on them and melt them, so I will gather you in My anger and wrath, put you inside , and melt you.

<sup>21</sup> Yes, I will gather you together and blow on you with the fire of My fury, and you will be melted within the city.

<sup>22</sup> As silver is melted inside a furnace, so you will be melted inside the city. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out My wrath on you."

<sup>23</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>24</sup> "Son of man, say to her: You are a land that has not been cleansed, that has not received rain in the day of indignation.

<sup>25</sup> The conspiracy of her prophets within her is like a roaring lion tearing its prey: they devour people, seize wealth and valuables, and multiply the widows within her.

<sup>26</sup> Her priests do violence to My law and profane My holy things. They make no distinction between the holy and the common, and they do not explain the difference between the clean and the unclean. They disregard My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

<sup>27</sup> "Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey, shedding blood, and destroying lives in order to get unjust gain.

<sup>28</sup> Her prophets plaster with whitewash for them by seeing false visions and lying divinations, and they say: This is what the Lord GOD says, 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 unlawfully exploited the foreign resident.

<sup>30</sup> I searched for a man among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land so that I might not destroy it, but I found no one.

<sup>31</sup> So I have poured out My indignation on them and consumed them with the fire of My fury. I have brought their actions down on their own heads." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**23** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, there were two women, daughters of the same mother,

<sup>3</sup> who acted like prostitutes in Egypt, behaving promiscuously in their youth. Their breasts were fondled there, and their virgin nipples caressed.

<sup>4</sup> The older one was named Oholah, and her sister was Oholibah. They became Mine and gave birth to sons and daughters. As for their names, Oholah

represents Samaria and Oholibah represents Jerusalem.

<sup>5</sup> "Oholah acted like a prostitute even though she was Mine. She lusted after her lovers, the Assyrians: warriors

<sup>6</sup> dressed in blue, governors and prefects, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding on steeds.

<sup>7</sup> She offered her sexual favors to them; all of them were the elite of Assyria. She defiled herself with all those she lusted after and with all their idols.

<sup>8</sup> She didn't give up her promiscuity that began in Egypt, when men slept with her in her youth, caressed her virgin nipples, and poured out their lust on her.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, I handed her over to her lovers, the Assyrians she lusted for.

<sup>10</sup> They exposed her nakedness, seized her sons and daughters, and killed her with the sword. Since they executed

judgment against her, she became notorious among women.

<sup>11</sup> "Now her sister Oholibah saw this, but she was even more depraved in her lust than Oholah, and made her promiscuous acts worse than those of her sister.

<sup>12</sup> She lusted after the Assyrians: governors and prefects, warriors splendidly dressed, horsemen riding on steeds, all of them desirable young men.

<sup>13</sup> And I saw that she had defiled herself; both of them had taken the same path.

<sup>14</sup> But she increased her promiscuity when she saw male figures carved on the wall, images of the Chaldeans, engraved in vermilion,

<sup>15</sup> wearing belts on their waists and flowing turbans on their heads; all of them looked like officers, a depiction of



the Babylonians in Chaldea, the land of their birth.

<sup>16</sup> At the sight of them she lusted after them and sent messengers to them in Chaldea.

<sup>17</sup> Then the Babylonians came to her, to the bed of love, and defiled her with their lust. But after she was defiled by them, she turned away from them in disgust.

<sup>18</sup> When she flaunted her promiscuity and exposed her nakedness, I turned away from her in disgust just as I turned away from her sister.

<sup>19</sup> Yet she multiplied her acts of promiscuity, remembering the days of her youth when she acted like a prostitute in the land of Egypt

<sup>20</sup> and lusted after their lovers, whose sexual members were like those of donkeys and whose emission was like that of stallions.

<sup>21</sup> So you revisited the indecency of your youth, when the Egyptians caressed your nipples to enjoy your youthful breasts.

<sup>22</sup> "Therefore Oholibah, this is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to incite your lovers against you, those you turned away from in disgust. I will bring them against you from every side:

<sup>23</sup> the Babylonians and all the Chaldeans; Pekod, Shoa, and Koa; and all the Assyrians with them--desirable young men, all of them governors and prefects, officers and administrators, all of them riding on horses.

<sup>24</sup> They will come against you with an alliance of nations and with weapons, chariots, and wagons. They will set themselves against you on every side with shields, bucklers, and helmets. I will delegate judgment to them, and they will judge you by their own standards.

<sup>25</sup> When I vent My jealous rage on you, they will deal with you in wrath. They will cut off your nose and ears, and your descendants will fall by the sword. They will seize your sons and daughters, and your descendants will be consumed by fire.

<sup>26</sup> They will strip off your clothes and take your beautiful jewelry.

<sup>27</sup> So I will put an end to your indecency and sexual immorality, which began in the land of Egypt, and you will not look longingly at them or remember Egypt any more.

<sup>28</sup> "For this is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to hand you over to those you hate, to those you turned away from in disgust.

<sup>29</sup> They will treat you with hatred, take all you have worked for, and leave you stark naked, so that the shame of your

debauchery will be exposed, both your indecency and promiscuity.

<sup>30</sup> These things will be done to you because you acted like a prostitute with the nations, defiling yourself with their idols.

<sup>31</sup> You have followed the path of your sister, so I will put her cup in your hand."

<sup>32</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: You will drink your sister's cup, which is deep and wide. You will be an object of ridicule and scorn, for it holds so much.

<sup>33</sup> You will be filled with drunkenness and grief, with a cup of devastation and desolation, the cup of your sister Samaria.

<sup>34</sup> You will drink it and drain it ; then you will gnaw its broken pieces, and tear your breasts. For I have spoken. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>35</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: "Because you have forgotten Me

and cast Me behind your back, you must bear the consequences of your indecency and promiscuity."

<sup>36</sup> Then the LORD said to me: "Son of man, will you pass judgment against Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare their abominations to them.

<sup>37</sup> For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands; they have committed adultery with their idols. They have even made the children they bore to Me pass through the fire as food for the idols.

<sup>38</sup> They also did this to Me: they defiled My sanctuary on that same day and profaned My Sabbaths.

<sup>39</sup> On the same day they slaughtered their children for their idols, they entered My sanctuary to profane it. Yes, that is what they did inside My house.

<sup>40</sup> "In addition, they sent for men who came from far away when a messenger

was dispatched to them. And look how they came! You bathed, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with jewelry for them.

<sup>41</sup> You sat on a luxurious couch with a table spread before it, on which you had set My incense and oil.

<sup>42</sup> The sound of a carefree crowd was there. Drunkards from the desert were brought in, along with common men. They put bracelets on the women's hands and beautiful crowns on their heads.

<sup>43</sup> Then I said concerning this woman worn out by adultery: Will they now have illicit sex with her, even her?

<sup>44</sup> Yet they had sex with her as one does with a prostitute. This is how they had sex with Oholah and Oholibah, those obscene women.

<sup>45</sup> But righteous men will judge them the way adulteresses and those who

shed blood are judged, for they are adulteresses and blood is on their hands.

<sup>46</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: Summon an assembly against them and consign them to terror and plunder.

<sup>47</sup> The assembly will stone them and cut them down with their swords. They will kill their sons and daughters and burn their houses with fire.

<sup>48</sup> So I will put an end to indecency in the land, and all the women will be admonished not to imitate your indecent behavior.

<sup>49</sup> They will repay you for your indecency, and you will bear the consequences for your sins of idolatry. Then you will know that I am the Lord GOD."

**24** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, write down today's date, this very day. The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day.

<sup>3</sup> Now speak a parable to the rebellious house. Tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says: Put the pot on the fire --put it on, and then pour water into it!

<sup>4</sup> Place the pieces of meat in it, every good piece--thigh and shoulder. Fill it with choice bones.

<sup>5</sup> Take the choicest of the flock and also pile up the fuel under it. Bring it to a boil and cook the bones in it."

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: Woe to the city of bloodshed, the pot that has rust inside it, and whose rust will not come off! Empty it piece by piece; lots should not be cast for its contents.

<sup>7</sup> For the blood she shed is in her midst. She put it out on the bare rock; she



didn't pour it on the ground to cover it with dust.

<sup>8</sup> In order to stir up wrath and take vengeance, I have put her blood on the bare rock, so that it would not be covered.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: Woe to the city of bloodshed! I Myself will make the pile of kindling large.

<sup>10</sup> Pile on the logs and kindle the fire! Cook the meat well and mix in the spices! Let the bones be burned!

<sup>11</sup> Set the empty pot on its coals so that it becomes hot and its copper glows. Then its impurity will melt inside it; its rust will be consumed.

<sup>12</sup> It has frustrated every effort; its thick rust will not come off. Into the fire with its rust!

<sup>13</sup> Because of the indecency of your uncleanness--since I tried to purify you,

but you would not be purified from your uncleanness--you will not be pure again until I have satisfied My wrath on you.

<sup>14</sup> I, the LORD, have spoken. It is coming, and I will do it! I will not refrain, I will not show pity, and I will not relent. I will judge you according to your ways and deeds. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>16</sup> "Son of man, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you with a fatal blow. But you must not lament or weep or let your tears flow.

<sup>17</sup> Groan quietly; do not observe mourning rites for the dead. Put on your turban and strap your sandals on your feet; do not cover your mustache or eat the bread of mourners."

<sup>18</sup> I spoke to the people in the morning, and my wife died in the evening.

The next morning I did just as I was commanded.

<sup>19</sup> Then the people asked me, "Won't you tell us what these things you are doing mean for us?"

<sup>20</sup> So I answered them: "The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>21</sup> 'Say to the house of Israel: This is what the Lord GOD says: I am about to desecrate My sanctuary, the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and the desire of your heart. Also, the sons and daughters you left behind will fall by the sword.

<sup>22</sup> Then you will do just as I have done: You will not cover your mustache or eat the bread of mourners.

<sup>23</sup> Your turbans will remain on your heads and your sandals on your feet. You will not lament or weep but will waste away because of your sins and will groan to one another.

<sup>24</sup> Now Ezekiel will be a sign for you. You will do everything that he has done. When this happens, you will know that I am the Lord GOD.

<sup>25</sup> "'Son of man, know that on the day I take their stronghold from them, their pride and joy, the delight of their eyes and the longing of their hearts, as well as their sons and daughters,

<sup>26</sup> on that day a fugitive will come to you and report the news.

<sup>27</sup> On that day your mouth will be opened to talk with him; you will speak and no longer be mute. So you will be a sign for them, and they will know that I am the LORD.'"

**25** <sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, turn your face toward the Ammonites and prophesy against them.

<sup>3</sup> Say to the Ammonites: Hear the word of the Lord GOD: This is what the Lord GOD says: Because you said: Good! about My sanctuary when it was desecrated, about the land of Israel when it was laid waste, and about the house of Judah when they went into exile,

<sup>4</sup> therefore I am about to give you to the people of the east as a possession. They will set up their encampments and pitch their tents among you. They will eat your fruit and drink your milk.

<sup>5</sup> I will make Rabbah a pasture for camels and Ammon a sheepfold. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>6</sup> For this is what the Lord GOD says: "Because you clapped your hands, stamped your feet, and rejoiced over the land of Israel with wholehearted contempt,

<sup>7</sup> therefore I am about to stretch out My hand against you and give you as plunder to the nations. I will cut you off from the peoples and eliminate you from the countries. I will destroy you, and you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>8</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says:  
"Because Moab and Seir said: Look, the house of Judah is like all the other nations,

<sup>9</sup> therefore I am about to expose Moab's flank beginning with its frontier cities, the pride of the land: Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim.

<sup>10</sup> I will give it along with Ammon to the people of the east as a possession, so that Ammon will not be remembered among the nations.

<sup>11</sup> So I will execute judgments against Moab, and they will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>12</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says:

"Because Edom acted vengefully against the house of Judah and incurred grievous guilt by taking revenge on them,

<sup>13</sup> therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I will stretch out My hand against Edom and cut off both man and animal from it. I will make it a wasteland; they will fall by the sword from Teman to Dedan.

<sup>14</sup> I will take My vengeance on Edom through My people Israel, and they will deal with Edom according to My anger and wrath. So they will know My vengeance." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says:

"Because the Philistines acted in vengeance and took revenge with deep contempt, destroying because of their ancient hatred,

<sup>16</sup> therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I am about to stretch out My hand against the Philistines, cutting off the Cherethites and wiping out what remains of the coastal peoples.

<sup>17</sup> I will execute great vengeance against them with furious rebukes. They will know that I am the LORD when I take My vengeance on 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 about Jerusalem: Good! The gateway to the peoples is shattered. She has been turned over to me. I will be filled now that she lies in ruins,

<sup>3</sup> therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: See, I am against you, Tyre! I will raise up many nations against you, just as the sea raises its waves.



<sup>4</sup> They will destroy the walls of Tyre and demolish her towers. I will scrape the soil from her and turn her into a bare rock.

<sup>5</sup> She will become a place in the sea to spread nets, for I have spoken." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "She will become plunder for the nations,

<sup>6</sup> and her villages on the mainland will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> For this is what the Lord GOD says: "See, I am about to bring King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north with horses, chariots, cavalry, and a vast company of troops.

<sup>8</sup> He will slaughter your villages on the mainland with the sword. He will set up siege works against you, and will build a ramp and raise a wall of shields against you.

<sup>9</sup> He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his iron tools.

<sup>10</sup> His horses will be so numerous that their dust will cover you. When he enters your gates as an army entering a breached city, your walls will shake from the noise of cavalry, wagons, and chariots.

<sup>11</sup> He will trample all your streets with the hooves of his horses. He will slaughter your people with the sword, and your mighty pillars will fall to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> They will take your wealth as spoil and plunder your merchandise. They will also demolish your walls and tear down your beautiful homes. Then they will throw your stones, timber, and soil into the water.

<sup>13</sup> I will put an end to the noise of your songs, and the sound of your lyres will no longer be heard.

<sup>14</sup> I will turn you into a bare rock, and you will be a place to spread nets. You will never be rebuilt, for I, the LORD, have spoken." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says to Tyre: "Won't the coasts and islands quake at the sound of your downfall, when the wounded groan and slaughter occurs within you?

<sup>16</sup> All the princes of the sea will descend from their thrones, remove their robes, and strip off their embroidered garments. They will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground, tremble continually, and be appalled at you.

<sup>17</sup> Then they will lament for you and say of you: How you have perished, city

of renown, you who were populated from the seas! She who was powerful on the sea, she and all of her inhabitants inflicted their terror.

<sup>18</sup> Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your downfall; the islands in the sea are alarmed by your demise."

<sup>19</sup> For this is what the Lord GOD says: "When I make you a ruined city like other deserted cities, when I raise up the deep against you so that the mighty waters cover you,

<sup>20</sup> then I will bring you down to be with those who descend to the Pit, to the people of antiquity. I will make you dwell in the underworld like the ancient ruins, with those who descend to the Pit, so that you will no longer be inhabited or display your splendor in the land of the living.

<sup>21</sup> I will make you an object of horror, and you will no longer exist. You will be

sought but will never be found again."  
This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**27** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Now, son of man, lament for Tyre.

<sup>3</sup> Say to Tyre, who is located at the entrance of the sea, merchant of the peoples to many coasts and islands: This is what the Lord GOD says: Tyre, you declared: I am perfect in beauty.

<sup>4</sup> Your realm was in the heart of the sea; your builders perfected your beauty.

<sup>5</sup> They constructed all your planking with pine trees from Senir. They took a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for you.

<sup>6</sup> They made your oars of oaks from Bashan. They made your deck of cypress wood from the coasts of Cyprus, inlaid with ivory.

<sup>7</sup> Your sail was made of fine embroidered linen from Egypt,

and served as your banner. Your awning was of blue and purple fabric from the coasts of Elishah.

<sup>8</sup> The inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers. Your wise men were within you, Tyre; they were your helmsmen.

<sup>9</sup> The elders of Gebal and its wise men were within you, repairing your leaks. All the ships of the sea and their sailors came to you to barter for your goods.

<sup>10</sup> Men of Persia, Lud, and Put were in your army, serving as your warriors. They hung shields and helmets in you; they gave you splendor.

<sup>11</sup> Men of Arvad and Helech were stationed on your walls all around, and Gamadites were in your towers. They hung their shields all around your walls; they perfected your beauty.

<sup>12</sup> "Tarshish was your trading partner because of your great wealth of every

kind. They exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your merchandise.

<sup>13</sup> Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your merchants. They exchanged slaves and bronze utensils for your goods.

<sup>14</sup> Those from Beth-togarmah exchanged horses, war horses, and mules for your merchandise.

<sup>15</sup> Men of Dedan were also your merchants; many coasts and islands were your regular markets. They brought back ivory tusks and ebony as your payment.

<sup>16</sup> Aram was your trading partner because of your numerous products. They exchanged turquoise, purple and embroidered cloth, fine linen, coral, and rubies for your merchandise.

<sup>17</sup> Judah and the land of Israel were your merchants. They exchanged wheat from Minnith, meal, honey, oil, and balm for your goods.

<sup>18</sup> Damascus was also your trading partner because of your numerous products and your great wealth of every kind, trading in wine from Helbon and white wool.

<sup>19</sup> Vedan and Javan from Uzal dealt in your merchandise; wrought iron, cassia, and aromatic cane were exchanged for your goods.

<sup>20</sup> Dedan was your merchant in saddlecloths for riding.

<sup>21</sup> Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your business partners, trading with you in lambs, rams, and goats.

<sup>22</sup> The merchants of Sheba and Raamah traded with you. They exchanged gold, the best of all spices, and all kinds of precious stones for your merchandise.

<sup>23</sup> Haran, Canneh, Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad traded with you.



<sup>24</sup> They were your merchants in choice garments, cloaks of blue and embroidered materials, and multicolored carpets, which were bound and secured with cords in your marketplace.

<sup>25</sup> Ships of Tarshish were the carriers for your goods. So you became full and heavily loaded in the heart of the sea.

<sup>26</sup> Your rowers have brought you onto the high seas, but the east wind has shattered you in the heart of the sea.

<sup>27</sup> Your wealth, merchandise, and goods, your sailors and helmsmen, those who repair your leaks, those who barter for your goods, and all the warriors within you, with all the other people on board, sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your downfall.

<sup>28</sup> The countryside shakes at the sound of your sailors' cries.

<sup>29</sup> All those who handle an oar disembark from their ships. The sailors and all the helmsmen of the sea stand on the shore.

<sup>30</sup> They raise their voices over you and cry out bitterly. They throw dust on their heads; they roll in ashes.

<sup>31</sup> They shave their heads because of you and wrap themselves in sackcloth. They weep over you with deep anguish and bitter mourning.

<sup>32</sup> In their wailing they lament for you, mourning over you: Who was like Tyre, silenced in the middle of the sea?

<sup>33</sup> When your merchandise was unloaded from the seas, you satisfied many peoples. You enriched the kings of the earth with your abundant wealth and goods.

<sup>34</sup> Now you are shattered by the sea in the depths of the waters; your goods

and the people within you have gone down.

<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the coasts and islands are appalled at you. Their kings shudder with fear; their faces are contorted.

<sup>36</sup> Those who trade among the peoples hiss at you; you have become an object of horror and will never exist again."

**28** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre: This is what the Lord GOD says: Your heart is proud, and you have said: I am a god; I sit in the seat of gods in the heart of the sea. Yet you are a man and not a god, though you have regarded your heart as that of a god.

<sup>3</sup> Yes, you are wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you!

<sup>4</sup> By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired wealth for yourself.

You have acquired gold and silver for your treasuries.

<sup>5</sup> By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, but your heart has become proud because of your wealth."

<sup>6</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Because you regard your heart as that of a god,

<sup>7</sup> I am about to bring strangers against you, ruthless men from the nations. They will draw their swords against your magnificent wisdom and will defile your splendor.

<sup>8</sup> They will bring you down to the Pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the sea.

<sup>9</sup> Will you still say: I am a god, in the presence of those who kill you? Yet you will be shown to be a man, not a god, in the hands of those who kill you.

<sup>10</sup> You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of strangers. For I have spoken. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>11</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>12</sup> "Son of man, lament for the king of Tyre and say to him: This is what the Lord GOD says: You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

<sup>13</sup> You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every kind of precious stone covered you: carnelian, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and emerald. Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold; they were prepared on the day you were created.

<sup>14</sup> You were an anointed guardian cherub, for I had appointed you. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

<sup>15</sup> From the day you were created you were blameless in your ways until wickedness was found in you.

<sup>16</sup> Through the abundance of your trade, you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I expelled you in disgrace from the mountain of God, and banished you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

<sup>17</sup> Your heart became proud because of your beauty; For the sake of your splendor you corrupted your wisdom. So I threw you down to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

<sup>18</sup> You profaned your sanctuaries by the magnitude of your iniquities in your dishonest trade. So I sent out fire from within you, and it consumed you. I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of everyone watching you.

<sup>19</sup> All those who know you among the nations are appalled at you. You have

become an object of horror and will never exist again."

<sup>20</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>21</sup> "Son of man, turn your face toward Sidon and prophesy against it.

<sup>22</sup> You are to say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Look! I am against you, Sidon, and I will display My glory within you. They will know that I am the LORD when I execute judgments against her and demonstrate My holiness through her.

<sup>23</sup> I will send a plague against her and bloodshed in her streets; the slain will fall within her, while the sword is against her on every side. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>24</sup> "The house of Israel will no longer be hurt by prickling briars or painful thorns from all their neighbors who treat them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the Lord GOD.

<sup>25</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples where they are scattered and demonstrate My holiness through them in the sight of the nations, then they will live in their own land, which I gave to My servant Jacob.

<sup>26</sup> They will live there securely, build houses, and plant vineyards. They will live securely when I execute judgments against all their neighbors who treat 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, turn your face toward Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all of Egypt.

<sup>3</sup> Speak to him and say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, I am against you,



Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great monster lying in the middle of his Nile, who 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 cling to your scales. I will haul you up from the middle of your Nile, and all the fish of your streams will cling to your scales.

<sup>5</sup> I will leave you in the desert, you and all the fish of your streams. You will fall on the open ground and will not be taken away or gathered for burial . I have given you to the beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky as food.

<sup>6</sup> Then all the inhabitants of Egypt will know that I am the LORD, for they have been a staff made of reed to the house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> When Israel grasped you by the hand, you splintered, tearing all their shoulders; when they leaned on you,

you shattered and made all their hips unsteady.

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to bring a sword against you and wipe out man and animal from you.

<sup>9</sup> The land of Egypt will be a desolate ruin. Then they will know that I am the LORD. Because you said: The Nile is my own; I made it ,

<sup>10</sup> therefore, I am against you and your Nile. I will turn the land of Egypt into ruins, a desolate waste from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border of Cush.

<sup>11</sup> No human foot will pass through it, and no animal foot will pass through it. It will be uninhabited for 40 years.

<sup>12</sup> I will make the land of Egypt a desolation among desolate lands, and its cities will be a desolation among ruined cities for 40 years. I will disperse the

Egyptians among the nations and scatter them across the countries.

<sup>13</sup> "For this is what the Lord GOD says: At the end of 40 years I will gather the Egyptians from the nations where they were dispersed.

<sup>14</sup> I will restore the fortunes of Egypt and bring them back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin. There they will be a lowly kingdom.

<sup>15</sup> Egypt will be the lowliest of kingdoms and will never again exalt itself over the nations. I will make them so small they cannot rule over the nations.

<sup>16</sup> It will never again be an object of trust for the house of Israel, drawing attention to their sin of turning to the Egyptians. 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 strenuously against Tyre. Every head was made bald and every shoulder chafed, but he and his army received no compensation from Tyre for the labor he expended against it.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will carry off its wealth, seizing its spoil and taking its plunder. This will be his army's compensation.

<sup>20</sup> I have given him the land of Egypt as the pay he labored for, since they worked for Me." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>21</sup> "In that day I will cause a horn to sprout for the house of Israel, and I will enable you to speak out 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: This is what the Lord GOD says: Wail: Alas for the day!

<sup>3</sup> For a day is near; a day belonging to the LORD is near. It will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.

<sup>4</sup> A sword will come against Egypt, and there will be anguish in Cush when the slain fall in Egypt, and its wealth is taken away, and its foundations are torn down.

<sup>5</sup> Cush, Put, and Lud, and all the various foreign troops, plus Libya and the men of the covenant land will fall by the sword along with them.

<sup>6</sup> This is what the LORD says: Those who support Egypt will fall, and its proud strength will collapse. From Migdol to Syene they will fall within it by the sword. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>7</sup> They will be desolate among desolate lands, and their cities will lie among ruined cities.

<sup>8</sup> They will know that I am the LORD when I set fire to Egypt and all its allies are shattered.

<sup>9</sup> On that day, messengers will go out from Me in ships to terrify confident Cush. Anguish will come over them on the day of Egypt's doom . For indeed it is coming."

<sup>10</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: I will put an end to the hordes of Egypt by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

<sup>11</sup> He along with his people, ruthless men from the nations, will be brought in to destroy the land. They will draw their swords against Egypt and fill the land with the slain.

<sup>12</sup> I will make the streams dry and sell the land into the hands of evil

men. I will bring desolation on the land and everything in it by the hands of foreigners. I, the LORD, have spoken.

<sup>13</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: I will destroy the idols and put an end to the false gods in Memphis. There will no longer be a prince from the land of Egypt. So I will instill fear in that land.

<sup>14</sup> I will make Pathros desolate, set fire to Zoan, and execute judgments on Thebes.

<sup>15</sup> I will pour out My wrath on Pelusium, the stronghold of Egypt, and will wipe out the crowds of Thebes.

<sup>16</sup> I will set fire to Egypt; Pelusium will writhe in anguish, Thebes will be breached, and Memphis will face foes in broad daylight.

<sup>17</sup> The young men of On and Pi-beseth will fall by the sword, and those cities will go into captivity.

<sup>18</sup> The day will be dark in Tehaphnehes, when I break the yoke of Egypt there and its proud strength comes to an end in the city. A cloud will cover Tehaphnehes, and its villages will go into captivity.

<sup>19</sup> So I will execute judgments against Egypt, and 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. Look, it has not been bandaged--no medicine has been applied and no splint put on to bandage it so that it can grow strong enough to handle a sword.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Look! I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt. I will break his arms, both the strong one and the one already broken,



and will make the sword fall from his hand.

<sup>23</sup> I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them among the countries.

<sup>24</sup> I will strengthen the arms of Babylon's king and place My sword in his hand. But I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him as a mortally wounded man.

<sup>25</sup> I will strengthen the arms of Babylon's king, but Pharaoh's arms will fall. They will know that I am the LORD when I place My sword in the hand of Babylon's king and he wields it against the land of Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> When I disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them among the countries, 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 hordes: Who are you like in your greatness?

<sup>3</sup> Think of Assyria, a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches and shady foliage, and of lofty height. Its top was among the clouds.

<sup>4</sup> The waters caused it to grow; the underground springs made it tall, directing their rivers all around the place where the tree was planted and sending their channels to all the trees of the field.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the cedar became greater in height than all the trees of the field. Its branches multiplied, and its boughs grew long as it spread them out because of the plentiful water.

<sup>6</sup> All the birds of the sky nested in its branches, and all the animals of the field

gave birth beneath its boughs; all the great nations lived in its shade.

<sup>7</sup> It was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its limbs, for its roots extended to abundant water.

<sup>8</sup> The cedars in God's garden could not rival it; the pine trees couldn't compare with its branches, nor could the plane trees match its boughs. No tree in the garden of God could compare with it in beauty.

<sup>9</sup> I made it beautiful with its many limbs, and all the trees of Eden, which were in God's garden, envied it.

<sup>10</sup> "Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Since it became great in height and set its top among the clouds, and it grew proud on account of its height,

<sup>11</sup> I determined to hand it over to a ruler of nations; he would surely deal with it. I banished it because of its wickedness.

<sup>12</sup> Foreigners, ruthless men from the nations, cut it down and left it lying. Its limbs fell on the mountains and in every valley; its boughs lay broken in all the earth's ravines. All the peoples of the earth left its shade and abandoned it.

<sup>13</sup> All the birds of the sky nested on its fallen trunk, and all the animals of the field were among its boughs.

<sup>14</sup> This happened so that no trees planted beside water would become great in height and set their tops among the clouds, and so that no other well-watered trees would reach them in height. For they have all been consigned to death, to the underworld, among the people who descend to the Pit.

<sup>15</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: I caused grieving on the day the cedar went down to Sheol. I closed off the underground deep because of it: I held back the rivers of the deep, and its

abundant waters were restrained. I made Lebanon mourn on account of 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 downfall, when I threw it down to Sheol to be with those who descend to the Pit. Then all the trees of Eden, all the well-watered trees, the choice and best of Lebanon, were comforted in the underworld.

<sup>17</sup> They too descended with it to Sheol, to those slain by the sword. As its allies they had lived in its shade among the nations.

<sup>18</sup> "Who then are you like in glory and greatness among Eden's trees? You also will be brought down to the underworld to be with the trees of Eden. You will lie among the uncircumcised with those slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and

all his hordes"--the declaration of 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, lament for Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: You compare yourself to a lion of the nations, but you are like a monster in the seas. You thrash about in your rivers, churn up the waters with your feet, and muddy the rivers."

<sup>3</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: I will spread My net over you with an assembly of many peoples, and they will haul you up in My net.

<sup>4</sup> I will abandon you on the land and hurl you on the open field. I will cause all the birds of the sky to settle on you and let the beasts of the entire earth eat their fill of you.

<sup>5</sup> I will put your flesh on the mountains and fill the valleys with your carcass.

<sup>6</sup> I will drench the land with the flow of your blood, even to the mountains; the ravines will be filled with your gore .

<sup>7</sup> When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars. I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light.

<sup>8</sup> I will darken all the shining lights in the heavens over you, and will bring darkness on your land. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>9</sup> I will trouble the hearts of many peoples, when I bring about your destruction among the nations, in countries you do not know.

<sup>10</sup> I will cause many nations to be appalled at you, and their kings will shudder with fear because of you when I brandish My sword in front of them. On

the day of your downfall each of them will tremble every moment for his life.

<sup>11</sup> For this is what the Lord GOD says: The sword of Babylon's king will come against you!

<sup>12</sup> I will make your hordes fall by the swords of warriors, all of them ruthless men from the nations. They will ravage Egypt's pride, and all its hordes will be destroyed.

<sup>13</sup> I will slaughter all its cattle that are beside many waters. No human foot will churn them again, and no cattle hooves will disturb them.

<sup>14</sup> Then I will let their waters settle and will make their rivers flow like oil. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> When I make the land of Egypt a desolation, so that it is emptied of everything in it, when I strike down all who live there, then they will know that I am the LORD.



<sup>16</sup> "This is a lament that will be chanted; the women of the nations will chant it. They will chant it over Egypt and all its hordes." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>17</sup> In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>18</sup> "Son of man, wail over the hordes of Egypt and bring Egypt and the daughters of mighty nations down to the underworld, to be with those who descend to the Pit:

<sup>19</sup> Whom do you surpass in loveliness? Go down and be laid to rest with the uncircumcised!

<sup>20</sup> They will fall among those slain by the sword. A sword is appointed! They drag her and all her hordes away.

<sup>21</sup> Warrior leaders will speak from the middle of Sheol about him and

his allies: They have come down; the uncircumcised lie slain by the sword.

<sup>22</sup> Assyria is there with all her company; her graves are all around her. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword.

<sup>23</sup> Her graves are set in the deepest regions of the Pit, and her company is all around her burial place. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword--they who once spread terror in the land of the living.

<sup>24</sup> Elam is there with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword--they who went down to the underworld uncircumcised, who once spread their terror in the land of the living. They bear their disgrace with those who descend to the Pit.

<sup>25</sup> Among the slain they prepare a resting place for Elam with all her hordes. Her graves are all around her. All of them are uncircumcised, slain by

the sword, although their terror was once spread in the land of the living. They bear their disgrace with those who descend to the Pit. They are placed among the slain.

<sup>26</sup> Meshech and Tubal are there, with all their hordes. Their graves are all around them. All of them are uncircumcised, slain by the sword, although their terror was once spread in the land of the living.

<sup>27</sup> They do not lie down with the fallen warriors of the uncircumcised, who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war, whose swords were placed under their heads. The punishment for their sins rested on their bones, although the terror of these warriors was once in the land of the living.

<sup>28</sup> But you will be shattered and will lie down among the uncircumcised, with those slain by the sword.

<sup>29</sup> Edom is there, her kings and all her princes, who, despite their strength, have been placed among those slain by the sword. They lie down with the uncircumcised, with those who descend to the Pit.

<sup>30</sup> All the leaders of the north and all the Sidonians are there. They went down in shame with the slain, despite the terror their strength inspired. They lie down uncircumcised with those slain by the sword. They bear their disgrace with those who descend to the Pit.

<sup>31</sup> Pharaoh will see them and be comforted over all his hordes--Pharaoh and all his army, slain by the sword. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>32</sup> For I will spread My terror in the land of the living, so Pharaoh and all his hordes will be laid to rest among the uncircumcised, with those slain by the

sword." This is the declaration of 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 tell them: Suppose I bring the sword against a land, and the people of that land select a man from among them, appointing him as their watchman,

<sup>3</sup> and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows his trumpet to warn the people.

<sup>4</sup> Then, if anyone hears the sound of the trumpet but ignores the warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head.

<sup>5</sup> Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but ignored the warning, his blood is on his own hands. If he had taken warning, he would have saved his life.

<sup>6</sup> However, if the watchman sees the sword coming but doesn't blow the trumpet, so that the people aren't warned, and the sword comes and takes away their lives, then they have been taken away because of their iniquity, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.

<sup>7</sup> "As for you, son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from My mouth, give them a warning from Me.

<sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked: Wicked one, you will surely die, but you do not speak out to warn him about his way, that wicked person will die for his iniquity, yet I will hold you responsible for his blood.

<sup>9</sup> But if you warn a wicked person to turn from his way and he doesn't turn from it, he will die for his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup> "Now as for you, son of man, say to the house of Israel: You have said this: Our transgressions and our sins are heavy on us, and we are wasting away because of them! How then can we survive?

<sup>11</sup> Tell them: As I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked person should turn from his way and live. Repent, repent of your evil ways! Why will you die, house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup> "Now, son of man, say to your people: The righteousness of the righteous person will not save him on the day of his transgression; neither will the wickedness of the wicked person cause him to stumble on the day he turns from his wickedness. The righteous person won't be able to survive by his righteousness on the day he sins.

<sup>13</sup> When I tell the righteous person that he will surely live, but he trusts in his righteousness and commits iniquity, then none of his righteousness will be remembered, and he will die because of the iniquity he has committed.

<sup>14</sup> "So when I tell the wicked person: You will surely die, but he repents of his sin and does what is just and right--

<sup>15</sup> he returns collateral, makes restitution for what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without practicing iniquity--he will certainly live; he will not die.

<sup>16</sup> None of the sins he committed will be held against him. He has done what is just and right; he will certainly live.

<sup>17</sup> "But your people say: The Lord's way isn't fair, even though it is their own way that isn't fair.



<sup>18</sup> When a righteous person turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he will die on account of this.

<sup>19</sup> But when a wicked person turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live because of this.

<sup>20</sup> Yet you say: The Lord's way isn't fair. I will judge each of you according to his ways, house of Israel."

<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 reported, "The city has been taken!"

<sup>22</sup> Now the hand of the LORD had been on me the evening before the fugitive arrived, and He opened my mouth before the man came to me in the morning. So my mouth was opened and I was no longer mute.

<sup>23</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>24</sup> "Son of man, those who live in the ruins in the land of Israel are saying: Abraham was only one person, yet he received possession of the land. But we are many; the land has been given to us as a possession.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: You eat meat with blood in it, raise your eyes to your idols, and shed blood. Should you then receive possession of the land?

<sup>26</sup> You have relied on your swords, you have committed abominations, and each of you has defiled his neighbor's wife. Should you then receive possession of the land?

<sup>27</sup> "Tell them this: This is what the Lord GOD says: As surely as I live, those who are in the ruins will fall by the sword, those in the open field I have given to wild animals to be devoured, and those

in the strongholds and caves will die by plague.

<sup>28</sup> I will make the land a desolate waste, and its proud strength will come to an end. The mountains of Israel will become desolate, with no one passing through.

<sup>29</sup> They will know that I am the LORD when I make the land a desolate waste because of all the abominations they have committed.

<sup>30</sup> "Now, son of man, your people are talking about you near the city walls and in the doorways of their houses. One person speaks to another, each saying to his brother: Come and hear what the message is that comes from the LORD!

<sup>31</sup> So My people come to you in crowds, sit in front of you, and hear your words, but they don't obey them. Although they express love with their mouths, their hearts pursue unjust gain.

<sup>32</sup> Yes, to them you are like a singer of love songs who has a beautiful voice and plays skillfully on an instrument. They hear your words, but they don't obey them.

<sup>33</sup> Yet when it comes--and it will definitely come--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: This is what the Lord GOD says to the shepherds: Woe to the shepherds of Israel, who have been feeding themselves! Shouldn't the shepherds feed their flock?

<sup>3</sup> You eat the fat, wear the wool, and butcher the fatlings, but you do not tend the flock.

<sup>4</sup> You have not strengthened the weak, healed the sick, bandaged the injured,

brought back the strays, or sought the lost. Instead, you have ruled them with violence and cruelty.

<sup>5</sup> They were scattered for lack of a shepherd; they became food for all the wild animals when they were scattered.

<sup>6</sup> My flock went astray on all the mountains and every high hill. They were scattered over the whole face of the earth, and there was no one searching or seeking for them .

<sup>7</sup> "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> As I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"because My flock has become prey and food for every wild animal since they lack a shepherd, for My shepherds do not search for My flock, and because the shepherds feed themselves rather than My flock,

<sup>9</sup> therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD!

<sup>10</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, I am against the shepherds. I will demand My flock from them and prevent them from shepherding the flock. The shepherds will no longer feed themselves, for I will rescue My flock from their mouths so that they will not be food for them.

<sup>11</sup> "For this is what the Lord GOD says: See, I Myself will search for My flock and look for them.

<sup>12</sup> As a shepherd looks for his sheep on the day he is among his scattered flock, so I will look for My flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered on a cloudy and dark day.

<sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples, gather them from the countries, and bring them into their own land. I will shepherd them on the

mountains of Israel, in the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the land.

<sup>14</sup> I will tend them with good pasture, and their grazing place will be on Israel's lofty mountains. There they will lie down in a good grazing place; they will feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> I will tend My flock and let them lie down." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> "I will seek the lost, bring back the strays, bandage the injured, and strengthen the weak, but I will destroy the fat and the strong. I will shepherd them with justice.

<sup>17</sup> "The Lord GOD says to you, My flock: I am going to judge between one sheep and another, between the rams and male goats.

<sup>18</sup> Isn't it enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of the pasture with your feet?

Or isn't it enough that you drink the clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?

<sup>19</sup> Yet My flock has to feed on what your feet have trampled, and drink what your feet have muddied.

<sup>20</sup> "Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says to them: See, I Myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

<sup>21</sup> Since you have pushed with flank and shoulder and butted all the weak ones with your horns until you scattered them all over,

<sup>22</sup> I will save My flock, and they will no longer be prey for you. I will judge between one sheep and another.

<sup>23</sup> I will appoint over them a single shepherd, My servant David, and he will shepherd them. He will tend them himself and will be their shepherd.



<sup>24</sup> I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be a prince among them. I, the LORD, have spoken.

<sup>25</sup> "I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate dangerous animals in the land, so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the forest.

<sup>26</sup> I will make them and the area around My hill a blessing: I will send down showers in their season--showers of blessing.

<sup>27</sup> The trees of the field will give their fruit, and the land will yield its produce; My flock will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslave them.

<sup>28</sup> They will no longer be prey for the nations, and the wild animals of the land will not consume them. They will live securely, and no one will frighten them .

<sup>29</sup> I will establish for them a place renowned for its agriculture, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land. They will no longer endure the insults of the nations.

<sup>30</sup> Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>31</sup> "You are My flock, the human flock of My pasture, and I am your God." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**35** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, turn your face toward Mount Seir and prophesy against it.

<sup>3</sup> Say to it: This is what the Lord GOD says: Look! I am against you, Mount Seir. I will stretch out My hand against you and make you a desolate waste.

<sup>4</sup> I will turn your cities into ruins, and you will become a desolation. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> "Because you maintained an ancient hatred and handed over the Israelites to the power of the sword in the time of their disaster, the time of final punishment,

<sup>6</sup> therefore, as I live"--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--"I will destine you for bloodshed, and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, it will pursue you.

<sup>7</sup> I will make Mount Seir a desolate waste and will cut off from it those who come and go.

<sup>8</sup> I will fill its mountains with the slain; those slain by the sword will fall on your hills, in your valleys, and in all your ravines.

<sup>9</sup> I will make you a perpetual desolation; your cities will not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> "Because you said: These two nations and two lands will be mine, and we will possess them--though the LORD was there--

<sup>11</sup> therefore, as I live"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"I will treat you according to the anger and jealousy you showed in your hatred of them. I will make Myself known among them when I judge you.

<sup>12</sup> Then you will know that I, the LORD, have heard all the blasphemies you uttered against the mountains of Israel, saying: They are desolate. They have been given to us to devour!

<sup>13</sup> You boasted against Me with your mouth, and spoke many words against Me. I heard it Myself!

<sup>14</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: While the whole world rejoices, I will make you a desolation.

<sup>15</sup> Just as you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it became a desolation, so I will deal with you: you will become a desolation, Mount Seir, and so will all Edom in its entirety. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

**36** <sup>1</sup> "Son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say: Mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: Because the enemy has said about you, 'Good! The ancient heights have become our possession,'

<sup>3</sup> therefore, prophesy and say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Because they have made you desolate and have trampled you from every side, so that

you became a possession for the rest of the nations and an object of people's gossip and slander,

<sup>4</sup> therefore, mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD. This is what the Lord GOD says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys, to the desolate ruins and abandoned cities, which have become plunder and a mockery to the rest of the nations all around.

<sup>5</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: Certainly in My burning zeal I speak against the rest of the nations and all of Edom, who took My land as their own possession with wholehearted rejoicing and utter contempt, so that its pastureland became plunder.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys: This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, I speak

in My burning zeal because you have endured the insults of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I swear that the nations all around you will endure their own insults.

<sup>8</sup> "You, mountains of Israel, will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel, since their arrival is near.

<sup>9</sup> Look! I am on your side; I will turn toward you, and you will be tilled and sown.

<sup>10</sup> I will fill you with people, with the whole house of Israel in its entirety. The cities will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

<sup>11</sup> I will fill you with people and animals, and they will increase and be fruitful. I will make you inhabited as you once were and make you better off than you were before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> I will cause people, My people Israel, to walk on you; they will possess you, and you will be their inheritance. You will no longer deprive them of their children.

<sup>13</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: Because people are saying to you: You devour men and deprive your nation of children,

<sup>14</sup> therefore, you will no longer devour men and deprive your nation of children." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> "I will no longer allow the insults of the nations to be heard against you, and you will not have to endure the reproach of the peoples any more; you will no longer cause your nation to stumble." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>17</sup> "Son of man, while the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it with their conduct and actions. Their



behavior before Me was like menstrual impurity.

<sup>18</sup> So I poured out My wrath on them because of the blood they had shed on the land, and because they had defiled it with their idols.

<sup>19</sup> I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered among the countries. I judged them according to their conduct and actions.

<sup>20</sup> When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said about them: These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave His land in exile .

<sup>21</sup> Then I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they went.

<sup>22</sup> "Therefore, say to the house of Israel: This is what the Lord GOD says: It is not for your sake that I will act, house of

Israel, but for My holy name, which you profaned among the nations where you went.

<sup>23</sup> I will honor the holiness of My great name, which has been profaned among the nations--the name you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am Yahweh"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"when I demonstrate My holiness through you in their sight.

<sup>24</sup> "For I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries, and will bring you into your own land.

<sup>25</sup> I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols.

<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

<sup>27</sup> I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe My ordinances.

<sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land that I gave your fathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God.

<sup>29</sup> I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will summon the grain and make it plentiful, and will not bring famine on you.

<sup>30</sup> I will also make the fruit of the trees and the produce of the field plentiful, so that you will no longer experience reproach among the nations on account of famine.

<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 abominations.

<sup>32</sup> It is not for your sake that I will act"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"let this be known to you. Be ashamed and

humiliated because of your ways, house of Israel!

<sup>33</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the ruins will be rebuilt.

<sup>34</sup> The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of everyone who passes by.

<sup>35</sup> Then they will say: This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden. The cities that were once ruined, desolate, and destroyed are now fortified and inhabited.

<sup>36</sup> Then the nations that remain around you will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken and I will do it .

<sup>37</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: I will respond to the house of Israel and

do this for them: I will multiply them in number like a flock.

<sup>38</sup> So the ruined cities will be filled with a flock of people, just as the flock of sheep for sacrifice is filled in Jerusalem during its appointed festivals. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

**37** <sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was on me, and He brought me out by His Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

<sup>2</sup> He led me all around them. There were a great many of them on the surface of the valley, and they were very dry.

<sup>3</sup> Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I replied, "Lord GOD, only You know."

<sup>4</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy concerning these bones and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

<sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live.

<sup>6</sup> I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you so that you come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.

<sup>8</sup> As I looked, tendons appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man. Say to it: This is what the Lord GOD says: Breath, come from the four winds and breathe into these slain so that they may live!"

<sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as He commanded me; the breath entered them, and they

came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

<sup>11</sup> Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Look how they say: Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished; we are cut off.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, prophesy and say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them, My people, and lead you into the land of Israel.

<sup>13</sup> You will know that I am the LORD, My people, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.

<sup>14</sup> I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the LORD. I have spoken, and I will do it ." This is the declaration of the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>16</sup> "Son of man, take a single stick and write on it: Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him. Then take another stick and write on it: Belonging to Joseph--the stick of Ephraim--and all the house of Israel associated with him.

<sup>17</sup> Then join them together into a single stick so that they become one in your hand.

<sup>18</sup> When your people ask you: Won't you explain to us what you mean by these things?--

<sup>19</sup> tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph--which is in the hand of Ephraim--and the tribes of Israel associated with him, and put them together with the stick of Judah. I will make them into a single stick so that they become one in My hand.



<sup>20</sup> "When the sticks you have written on are in your hand and in full view of the people,

<sup>21</sup> tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them into their own land.

<sup>22</sup> I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over all of them. They will no longer be two nations and will no longer be divided into two kingdoms.

<sup>23</sup> They will not defile themselves any more with their idols, their detestable things, and all their transgressions. I will save them from all their apostasies by which they sinned, and I will cleanse them. Then they will be My people, and I will be their God.

<sup>24</sup> My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one shepherd

for all of them. They will follow My ordinances, and keep My statutes and obey them.

<sup>25</sup> "They will live in the land that I gave to My servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live in it forever with their children and grandchildren, and My servant David will be their prince forever.

<sup>26</sup> I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. I will establish and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary among them forever.

<sup>27</sup> My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people.

<sup>28</sup> When My sanctuary is among them forever, the nations will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel."

**38** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, turn your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophecy against him

<sup>3</sup> and say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

<sup>4</sup> I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws, and bring you out with all your army, including horses and riders, who are all splendidly dressed, a huge company armed with shields and bucklers, all of them brandishing swords.

<sup>5</sup> Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shields and helmets;

<sup>6</sup> Gomer with all its troops; and Beth-togarmah from the remotest parts of the north along with all its troops--many peoples are with you.

<sup>7</sup> "Be prepared and get yourself ready, you and all your company who have

been mobilized around you; you will be their guard.

<sup>8</sup> After a long time you will be summoned. In the last years you will enter a land that has been restored from war and regathered from many peoples to the mountains of Israel, which had long been a ruin. They were brought out from the peoples, and all of them now live securely.

<sup>9</sup> You, all of your troops, and many peoples with you will advance, coming like a thunderstorm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.

<sup>10</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: On that day, thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will devise an evil plan.

<sup>11</sup> You will say: I will go up against a land of open villages; I will come against a tranquil people who are living securely, all of them living without walls and without bars or gates--

<sup>12</sup> in order to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against ruins now inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations, who have been acquiring cattle and possessions and who live at the center of the world.

<sup>13</sup> Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its rulers will ask you: Have you come to seize spoil? Have you assembled your hordes to carry off plunder, to make off with silver and gold, to take cattle and possessions, to seize great spoil?

<sup>14</sup> "Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog: This is what the Lord GOD says: On that day when My people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know this

<sup>15</sup> and come from your place in the remotest parts of the north--you and many peoples with you, who are all

riding horses--a mighty horde, a huge army?

<sup>16</sup> You will advance against My people Israel like a cloud covering the land. It will happen in the last days, Gog, that I will bring you against My land so that the nations may know Me, when I show Myself holy through you in their sight.

<sup>17</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: Are you the one I spoke about in former times through My servants, the prophets of Israel, who for years prophesied in those times that I would bring you against them?

<sup>18</sup> Now on that day, the day when Gog comes against the land of Israel"--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--"My wrath will flare up.

<sup>19</sup> I swear in My zeal and fiery rage: On that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.

<sup>20</sup> The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, every creature that crawls on the ground, and every human being on the face of the earth will tremble before Me. The mountains will be thrown down, the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground.

<sup>21</sup> I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains"--the declaration of the Lord GOD--"and every man's sword will be against his brother.

<sup>22</sup> I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed. I will pour out torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone on him, as well as his troops and the many peoples who are with him.

<sup>23</sup> I will display My greatness and holiness, and will reveal Myself in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

**39** <sup>1</sup> "As for you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say: This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

<sup>2</sup> I will turn you around, drive you on, and lead you up from the remotest parts of the north. I will bring you against the mountains of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> Then I will knock your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand.

<sup>4</sup> You, all your troops, and the peoples who are with you will fall on the mountains of Israel. I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and to the wild animals.

<sup>5</sup> You will fall on the open field, for I have spoken." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>6</sup> "I will send fire against Magog and those who live securely on the coasts



and islands. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> So I will make My holy name known among My people Israel and will no longer allow it to be profaned. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

<sup>8</sup> Yes, it is coming, and it will happen." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "This is the day I have spoken about.

<sup>9</sup> "Then the inhabitants of Israel's cities will go out, kindle fires, and burn the weapons--the bucklers and shields, the bows and arrows, the clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them to make fires.

<sup>10</sup> They will not gather wood from the countryside or cut it down from the forests, for they will use the weapons to make fires. They will take the loot from those who looted them and plunder

those who plundered them." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>11</sup> "Now on that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel--the Valley of the Travelers east of the Sea. It will block those who travel through, for Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog.

<sup>12</sup> The house of Israel will spend seven months burying them in order to cleanse the land.

<sup>13</sup> All the people of the land will bury them and their fame will spread on the day I display My glory." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>14</sup> "They will appoint men on a full-time basis to pass through the land and bury the invaders who remain on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. They will make their search at the end of the seven months.

<sup>15</sup> When they pass through the land and one of them sees a human bone, he will erect a marker next to it until the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog.

<sup>16</sup> There will even be a city named Hamonah there . So they will cleanse the land.

<sup>17</sup> "Son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says: Tell every kind of bird and all the wild animals: Assemble and come! Gather from all around to My sacrificial feast that I am slaughtering for you, a great feast on the mountains of Israel; you will eat flesh and drink blood.

<sup>18</sup> You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the earth's princes: rams, lambs, male goats, and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

<sup>19</sup> You will eat fat until you are satisfied and drink blood until you are drunk, at

My sacrificial feast that I have prepared for you.

<sup>20</sup> At My table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, of mighty men and all the warriors." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>21</sup> "I will display My glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the judgment I have executed and the hand I have laid on them.

<sup>22</sup> From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.

<sup>23</sup> And the nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile on account of their iniquity, because they dealt unfaithfully with Me. Therefore, I hid My face from them and handed them over to their enemies, so that they all fell by the sword.

<sup>24</sup> I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and transgressions, and I hid My face from them.

<sup>25</sup> "So this is what the Lord GOD says: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have compassion on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for My holy name.

<sup>26</sup> They will feel remorse for their disgrace and all the unfaithfulness they committed against Me, when they live securely in their land with no one to frighten them .

<sup>27</sup> When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the countries of their enemies, I will demonstrate My holiness through them in the sight of many nations.

<sup>28</sup> They will know that I am the LORD their God when I regather them to their own land after having exiled them

among the nations. I will leave none of them behind.

<sup>29</sup> I will no longer hide My face from them, for I will pour out My Spirit on the house of Israel." This is the declaration of 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 Jerusalem had been captured, on that very day the LORD's hand was on me, and He brought me there.

<sup>2</sup> In visions of God He took me to the land of Israel and set me down on a very high mountain. On its southern slope was a structure resembling a city.

<sup>3</sup> He brought me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. He was standing by the gate.

<sup>4</sup> He spoke to me: "Son of man, look with your eyes, listen with your ears, and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for you have been brought here so that I might show it to you. Report everything you see to the house of Israel."

<sup>5</sup> Now there was a wall surrounding the outside of the temple. The measuring rod in the man's hand was six units of 21 inches; each unit was the standard length plus three inches. He measured the thickness of the wall structure; it was about 10 feet, and its height was the same.

<sup>6</sup> Then he came to the gate that faced east and climbed its steps. He measured the threshold of the gate; it was 10 feet deep--the first threshold was 10 feet deep.

<sup>7</sup> Each recess was about 10 feet long and 10 feet deep, and there was a space

of eight and three-quarter feet between the recesses. The inner threshold of the gate on the temple side next to the gate's portico was about 10 feet.

<sup>8</sup> Next he measured the portico of the gate;

<sup>9</sup> it was 14 feet, and its pilasters were three and a half feet. The portico of the gate was on the temple side.

<sup>10</sup> There were three recesses on each side of the east gate, each with the same measurements, and the pilasters on either side also had the same measurements.

<sup>11</sup> Then he measured the width of the gate's entrance; it was 17 and a half feet, while the width of the gateway was 22 and three-quarter feet.

<sup>12</sup> There was a barrier of 21 inches in front of the recesses on both sides, and the recesses on each side were 10 and a half feet square.



<sup>13</sup> Then he measured the gateway from the roof of one recess to the roof of the opposite one; the distance was 43 and three-quarter feet. The openings of the recesses faced each other.

<sup>14</sup> Next, he measured the pilasters--105 feet. The gate extended around to the pilaster of the court.

<sup>15</sup> The distance from the front of the gate at the entrance to the front of the gate's portico on the inside was 87 and a half feet.

<sup>16</sup> The recesses and their pilasters had beveled windows all around the inside of the gateway. The porticos also had windows all around on the inside. Each pilaster was decorated with palm trees.

<sup>17</sup> Then he brought me into the outer court, and there were chambers and a paved surface laid out all around the court. Thirty chambers faced the pavement,

<sup>18</sup> which flanked the gates and corresponded to the length of the gates; this was the lower pavement.

<sup>19</sup> Then he measured the distance from the front of the lower gate to the exterior front of the inner court; it was 175 feet. This was the east; next the north is described .

<sup>20</sup> He measured the gate of the outer court facing north, both its length and width.

<sup>21</sup> Its three recesses on each side, its pilasters, and its portico had the same measurements as the first gate: 87 and a half feet long and 43 and three-quarter feet wide.

<sup>22</sup> Its windows, portico, and palm trees had the same measurements as those of the gate that faced east. Seven steps led up to the gate, and its portico was ahead of them.

<sup>23</sup> The inner court had a gate facing the north gate, like the one on the east. He measured the distance from gate to gate; it was 175 feet.

<sup>24</sup> He brought me to the south side, and there was also a gate on the south. He measured its pilasters and portico; they had the same measurements as the others.

<sup>25</sup> Both the gate and its portico had windows all around, like the other windows. It was 87 and a half feet long and 43 and three-quarter feet wide.

<sup>26</sup> Its stairway had seven steps, and its portico was ahead of them. It had palm trees on its pilasters, one on each side.

<sup>27</sup> The inner court had a gate on the south. He measured from gate to gate on the south; it was 175 feet.

<sup>28</sup> Then he brought me to the inner court through the south gate. When

he measured the south gate, it had the same measurements as the others.

<sup>29</sup> Its recesses, pilasters, and portico had the same measurements as the others. Both it and its portico had windows all around. It was 87 and a half feet long and 43 and three-quarter feet wide.

<sup>30</sup> (There were porticoes all around, 43 and three-quarter feet long and eight and three-quarter feet wide.)

<sup>31</sup> Its portico faced the outer court, and its pilasters were decorated with palm trees. Its stairway had eight steps.

<sup>32</sup> Then he brought me to the inner court on the east side. When he measured the gate, it had the same measurements as the others.

<sup>33</sup> Its recesses, pilasters, and portico had the same measurements as the others. Both it and its portico had windows all around. It was 87 and a half

feet long and 43 and three-quarter feet wide.

<sup>34</sup> Its portico faced the outer court, and its pilasters were decorated with palm trees on each side. Its stairway had eight steps.

<sup>35</sup> Then he brought me to the north gate. When he measured it , it had the same measurements as the others,

<sup>36</sup> as did its recesses, pilasters, and portico. It also had windows all around. It was 87 and a half feet long and 43 and three-quarter feet wide.

<sup>37</sup> Its portico faced the outer court, and its pilasters were decorated with palm trees on each side. Its stairway had eight steps.

<sup>38</sup> There was a chamber whose door opened into the portico of the gate. The burnt offering was to be washed there.

<sup>39</sup> Inside the portico of the gate there were two tables on each side, on which

to slaughter the burnt offering, sin offering, and restitution offering.

<sup>40</sup> Outside, as one approaches the entrance of the north gate, there were two tables on one side and two more tables on the other side of the gate's portico.

<sup>41</sup> So there were four tables inside the gate and four outside, eight tables in all on which the slaughtering was to be done.

<sup>42</sup> There were also four tables of cut stone for the burnt offering, each 31 and a half inches long, 31 and a half inches wide, and 21 inches high. The utensils used to slaughter the burnt offerings and other sacrifices were placed on them.

<sup>43</sup> There were three-inch hooks fastened all around the inside of the room, and the flesh of the offering was to be laid on the tables.

<sup>44</sup> Outside the inner gate, within the inner court, there were chambers for the singers: one beside the north gate, facing south, and another beside the south gate, facing north.

<sup>45</sup> Then the man said to me: "This chamber that faces south is for the priests who keep charge of the temple.

<sup>46</sup> The chamber that faces north is for the priests who keep charge of the altar. These are the sons of Zadok, the ones from the sons of Levi who may approach the LORD to serve Him."

<sup>47</sup> Next he measured the court. It was square, 175 feet long and 175 feet wide. The altar was in front of the temple.

<sup>48</sup> Then he brought me to the portico of the temple and measured the pilasters of the portico; they were eight and three-quarter feet thick on each side. The width of the gateway was 24 and a half feet, and the sidewalls of the gate

were five and a quarter feet wide on each side.

<sup>49</sup> The portico was 35 feet across and 21 feet deep, and 10 steps led up to it. There were pillars by the pilasters, one on each side.

**41** <sup>1</sup> Next he brought me into the great hall and measured the pilasters; on each side the width of the pilaster was 10 and a half feet.

<sup>2</sup> The width of the entrance was 17 and a half feet, and the sidewalls of the entrance were eight and three-quarter feet wide on each side. He also measured the length of the great hall, 70 feet, and the width, 35 feet.

<sup>3</sup> He went inside the next room and measured the pilasters at the entrance; they were three and a half feet wide . The entrance was 10 and a half feet wide , and the width of the entrance's



sidewalls on each side was 12 and a quarter feet.

<sup>4</sup> He then measured the length of the room adjacent to the great hall, 35 feet, and the width, 35 feet. And he said to me, "This is the most holy place."

<sup>5</sup> Then he measured the wall of the temple; it was 10 and a half feet thick . The width of the side rooms all around the temple was seven feet.

<sup>6</sup> The side rooms were arranged one above another in three stories of 30 rooms each. There were ledges on the wall of the temple all around to serve as supports for the side rooms, so that the supports would not be in the temple wall itself .

<sup>7</sup> The side rooms surrounding the temple widened at each successive story, for the structure surrounding the temple went up by stages. This was the reason for the temple's broadness as it

rose. And so, one would go up from the lowest story to the highest by means of the middle one.

<sup>8</sup> I saw that the temple had a raised platform surrounding it ; this foundation for the side rooms was 10 and a half feet high.

<sup>9</sup> The thickness of the outer wall of the side rooms was eight and three-quarter feet. The free space between the side rooms of the temple

<sup>10</sup> and the outer chambers was 35 feet wide all around the temple.

<sup>11</sup> The side rooms opened into the free space, one entrance toward the north and another to the south. The area of free space was eight and three-quarter feet wide all around.

<sup>12</sup> Now the building that faced the temple yard toward the west was 122 and a half feet wide. The wall of the building was eight and three-quarter

feet thick on all sides, and the building's length was 157 and a half feet.

<sup>13</sup> Then the man measured the temple; it was 175 feet long. In addition, the temple yard and the building, including its walls, were 175 feet long.

<sup>14</sup> The width of the front of the temple along with the temple yard to the east was 175 feet.

<sup>15</sup> Next he measured the length of the building facing the temple yard to the west, with its galleries on each side; it was 175 feet. The interior of the great hall and the porticoes of the court--

<sup>16</sup> the thresholds, the beveled windows, and the balconies all around with their three levels opposite the threshold--were overlaid with wood on all sides. They were paneled from the ground to the windows (but the windows were covered),

<sup>17</sup> reaching to the top of the entrance, and as far as the inner temple and on the outside. On every wall all around, on the inside and outside, was a pattern

<sup>18</sup> carved with cherubim and palm trees. There was a palm tree between each pair of cherubim. Each cherub had two faces:

<sup>19</sup> a human face turned toward the palm tree on one side, and a lion's face turned toward it on the other. They were carved throughout the temple on all sides.

<sup>20</sup> Cherubim and palm trees were carved from the ground to the top of the entrance and on the wall of the great hall.

<sup>21</sup> The doorposts of the great hall were square, and the front of the sanctuary had the same appearance.

<sup>22</sup> The altar was made of wood, five and a quarter feet high and three and a half

feet long. It had corners, and its length and sides were of wood. The man told me, "This is the table that stands before the LORD."

<sup>23</sup> The great hall and the sanctuary each had a double door,

<sup>24</sup> and each of the doors had two swinging panels. There were two panels for one door and two for the other.

<sup>25</sup> Cherubim and palm trees were carved on the doors of the great hall like those carved on the walls. There was a wooden canopy outside, in front of the portico.

<sup>26</sup> There were beveled windows and palm trees on both sides, on the sidewalls of the portico, the side rooms of the temple, and the canopies.

**42** <sup>1</sup> Then the man led me out by way of the north gate into the outer court. He brought me to the group

of chambers opposite the temple yard and opposite the building to the north.

<sup>2</sup> Along the length of the chambers , which was 175 feet, there was an entrance on the north; the width was 87 and a half feet.

<sup>3</sup> Opposite the 35 foot space belonging to the inner court and opposite the paved surface belonging to the outer court, the structure rose gallery by gallery in three tiers.

<sup>4</sup> In front of the chambers was a walkway toward the inside, 17 and a half feet wide and 175 feet long, and their entrances were on the north.

<sup>5</sup> The upper chambers were narrower because the galleries took away more space from them than from the lower and middle stories of the building.

<sup>6</sup> For they were arranged in three stories and had no pillars like the pillars of the courts; therefore the upper

chambers were set back from the ground more than the lower and middle stories.

<sup>7</sup> A wall on the outside ran in front of the chambers, parallel to them, toward the outer court; it was 87 and a half feet long.

<sup>8</sup> For the chambers on the outer court were 87 and a half feet long, while those facing the great hall were 175 feet long .

<sup>9</sup> At the base of these chambers there was an entryway on the east side as one enters them from the outer court.

<sup>10</sup> In the thickness of the wall of the court toward the south, there were chambers facing the temple yard and the western building,

<sup>11</sup> with a passageway in front of them, just like the chambers that faced north. Their length and width, as well as all their exits, measurements, and entrances, were identical.

<sup>12</sup> The entrance at the beginning of the passageway, the way in front of the corresponding wall as one enters on the east side, was similar to the entrances of the chambers that were on the south side.

<sup>13</sup> Then the man said to me, "The northern and southern chambers that face the temple yard are the holy chambers where the priests who approach the LORD will eat the most holy offerings. There they will deposit the most holy offerings--the grain offerings, sin offerings, and restitution offerings--for the place is holy.

<sup>14</sup> Once the priests have entered, they must not go out from the holy area to the outer court until they have removed the clothes they minister in, for these are holy. They are to put on other clothes before they approach the public area."



<sup>15</sup> When he finished measuring inside the temple complex, he led me out by way of the gate that faced east and measured all around the complex.

<sup>16</sup> He measured the east side with a measuring rod; it was 875 feet by the measuring rod.

<sup>17</sup> He measured the north side; it was 875 feet by the measuring rod.

<sup>18</sup> He measured the south side; it was 875 feet by the measuring rod.

<sup>19</sup> Then he turned to the west side and measured 875 feet by the measuring rod.

<sup>20</sup> He measured the temple complex on all four sides. It had a wall all around it, 875 feet long and 875 feet wide, to separate the holy from the common.

**43** <sup>1</sup> He led me to the gate, the one that faces east,

<sup>2</sup> and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice sounded

like the roar of mighty waters, and the earth shone with His glory.

<sup>3</sup> The vision I saw was like the one I had seen when He came to destroy the city, and like the ones I had seen by the Chebar Canal. I fell facedown.

<sup>4</sup> The glory of the LORD entered the temple by way of the gate that faced east.

<sup>5</sup> Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

<sup>6</sup> While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from the temple.

<sup>7</sup> He said to me: "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place for the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel and their kings will no longer defile My holy name by their religious

prostitution and by the corpses of their kings at their high places.

<sup>8</sup> Whenever they placed their threshold next to My threshold and their doorposts beside My doorposts, with only a wall between Me and them, they were defiling My holy name by the abominations they committed. So I destroyed them in My anger.

<sup>9</sup> Now let them remove their prostitution and the corpses of their kings far from Me, and I will dwell among them forever.

<sup>10</sup> "As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, so that they may be ashamed of their iniquities. Let them measure its pattern,

<sup>11</sup> and they will be ashamed of all that they have done. Reveal the design of the temple to them--its layout with its exits and entrances--its complete design along with all its statutes, design

specifications, and laws. Write it down in their sight so that they may observe its complete design and all its statutes and may carry them out.

<sup>12</sup> This is the law of the temple: all its surrounding territory on top of the mountain will be especially holy. Yes, this is the law of the temple.

<sup>13</sup> "These are the measurements of the altar in units of length (each unit being the standard length plus three inches): the gutter is 21 inches deep and 21 inches wide, with a rim of nine inches around its edge. This is the base of the altar.

<sup>14</sup> The distance from the gutter on the ground to the lower ledge is three and a half feet, and the width of the ledge is 21 inches. There are seven feet from the small ledge to the large ledge, whose width is also 21 inches.

<sup>15</sup> The altar hearth is seven feet high , and four horns project upward from the hearth.

<sup>16</sup> The hearth is square, 21 feet long by 21 feet wide.

<sup>17</sup> The ledge is 24 and a half feet long by 24 and a half feet wide, with four equal sides. The rim all around it is 10 and a half inches, and its gutter is 21 inches all around it. The altar's steps face east."

<sup>18</sup> Then He said to me: "Son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says: These are the statutes for the altar on the day it is constructed, so that burnt offerings may be sacrificed on it and blood may be sprinkled on it:

<sup>19</sup> You are to give a bull from the herd as a sin offering to the Levitical priests who are from the offspring of Zadok, who approach Me in order to serve Me." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>20</sup> "You must take some of its blood and apply it to the four horns of the altar, the four corners of the ledge, and all around the rim. In this way you will purify the altar and make atonement for it.

<sup>21</sup> Then you must take away the bull for the sin offering, and it must be burned outside the sanctuary in the place appointed for the temple.

<sup>22</sup> "On the second day you are to present an unblemished male goat as a sin offering. They will purify the altar just as they did with the bull.

<sup>23</sup> When you have finished the purification, you are to present a young, unblemished bull and an unblemished ram from the flock.

<sup>24</sup> You must present them before the LORD; the priests will throw salt on them and sacrifice them as a burnt offering to the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> You will offer a goat for a sin offering each day for seven days. A young bull and a ram from the flock, both unblemished, must also be offered.

<sup>26</sup> For seven days the priests are to make atonement for the altar and cleanse it. In this way they will consecrate it

<sup>27</sup> and complete the days of purification . Then on the eighth day and afterwards, the priests will offer your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar, and I will accept you." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**44** <sup>1</sup> The man then brought me back toward the sanctuary's outer gate that faced east, and it was closed.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to me: "This gate will remain closed. It will not be opened, and no one will enter through it, because the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered through it. Therefore it will remain closed.

<sup>3</sup> The prince himself will sit in the gateway to eat a meal before the LORD. He must enter by way of the portico of the gate and go out the same way."

<sup>4</sup> Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked, and the glory of the LORD filled His temple. And I fell facedown.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD said to me: "Son of man, pay attention; look with your eyes and listen with your ears to everything I tell you about all the statutes and laws of the LORD's temple. Take careful note of the entrance of the temple along with all the exits of the sanctuary.

<sup>6</sup> "Say to the rebellious people, the house of Israel: This is what the Lord GOD says: I have had enough of all your abominations, house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> When you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in both heart and flesh, to occupy My sanctuary, you defiled



My temple while you offered My food--the fat and the blood. You broke My covenant with all your abominations.

<sup>8</sup> You have not kept charge of My holy things but have appointed others to keep charge of My sanctuary for you.

<sup>9</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, may enter My sanctuary, not even a foreigner who is among the Israelites.

<sup>10</sup> Surely the Levites who wandered away from Me when Israel went astray, and who strayed from Me after their idols, will bear the consequences of their sin.

<sup>11</sup> Yet they will occupy My sanctuary, serving as guards at the temple gates and ministering at the temple. They will slaughter the burnt offerings and other sacrifices for the people and will stand before them to serve them.

<sup>12</sup> Because they ministered to the house of Israel before their idols and became a sinful stumbling block to them, therefore I swore an oath against them"--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--"that they would bear the consequences of their sin.

<sup>13</sup> They must not approach Me to serve Me as priests or come near any of My holy things or the most holy things. They will bear their disgrace and the consequences of the abominations they committed.

<sup>14</sup> Yet I will make them responsible for the duties of the temple--for all its work and everything done in it.

<sup>15</sup> "But the Levitical priests descended from Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from Me, will approach Me to serve Me. They will stand before Me

to offer Me fat and blood." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> "They are the ones who may enter My sanctuary and draw near to My table to serve Me. They will keep My mandate.

<sup>17</sup> When they enter the gates of the inner court they must wear linen garments; they must not have on them anything made of wool when they minister at the gates of the inner court and within it .

<sup>18</sup> They must wear linen turbans on their heads and linen undergarments around their waists. They are not to put on anything that makes them sweat.

<sup>19</sup> Before they go out to the outer court, to the people, they must take off the clothes they have been ministering in, leave them in the holy chambers, and dress in other clothes so that they do not transmit holiness to the people through their clothes.

<sup>20</sup> "They may not shave their heads or let their hair grow long, but must carefully trim their hair.

<sup>21</sup> No priest may drink wine before he enters the inner court.

<sup>22</sup> He is not to marry a widow or a divorced woman, but must marry a virgin from the offspring of the house of Israel, or a widow who is the widow of a priest.

<sup>23</sup> They must teach My people the difference between the holy and the common, and explain to them the difference between the clean and the unclean.

<sup>24</sup> "In a dispute, they will officiate as judges and decide the case according to My ordinances. They must observe My laws and statutes regarding all My appointed festivals, and keep My Sabbaths holy.

<sup>25</sup> A priest may not come near a dead person so that he becomes defiled. However, he may defile himself for a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother, or an unmarried sister.

<sup>26</sup> After he is cleansed, he is to count off seven days for himself.

<sup>27</sup> On the day he goes into the sanctuary, into the inner court to minister in the sanctuary, he must present his sin offering." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>28</sup> "This will be their inheritance: I am their inheritance. You are to give them no possession in Israel: I am their possession.

<sup>29</sup> They will eat the grain offering, the sin offering, and the restitution offering. Everything in Israel that is permanently dedicated to the LORD will belong to them.

<sup>30</sup> The best of all the firstfruits of every kind and contribution of every kind from all your gifts will belong to the priests. You are to give your first batch of dough to the priest so that a blessing may rest on your homes.

<sup>31</sup> The priests may not eat any bird or animal that died naturally or was mauled by wild beasts.

**45** <sup>1</sup> "When you divide the land by lot as an inheritance, you must set aside a donation to the LORD, a holy portion of the land, eight and one-third miles long and six and two-thirds miles wide. This entire tract of land will be holy.

<sup>2</sup> In this area there will be a square section for the sanctuary, 875 by 875 feet , with 87 and a half feet of open space all around it.

<sup>3</sup> From this holy portion, you will measure off an area eight and one-third

miles long and three and one-third miles wide, in which the sanctuary, the most holy place, will stand.

<sup>4</sup> It will be a holy area of the land to be used by the priests who minister in the sanctuary, who draw near to serve the LORD. It will be a place for their houses, as well as a holy area for the sanctuary.

<sup>5</sup> There will be another area eight and one-third miles long and three and one-third miles wide for the Levites who minister in the temple; it will be their possession for towns to live in.

<sup>6</sup> "As the property of the city, you must set aside an area one and two-thirds of a mile wide and eight and one-third miles long, adjacent to the holy donation of land . It will be for the whole house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> And the prince will have the area on each side of the holy donation of land and the city's property, adjacent

to the holy donation and the city's property, stretching to the west on the west side and to the east on the east side. Its length will correspond to one of the tribal portions from the western boundary to the eastern boundary.

<sup>8</sup> This will be his land as a possession in Israel. My princes will no longer oppress My people but give the rest of the land to the house of Israel according to their tribes.

<sup>9</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: You have gone too far, princes of Israel! Put away violence and oppression and do what is just and right. Put an end to your evictions of My people." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>10</sup> "You must have honest balances, an honest dry measure, and an honest liquid measure.

<sup>11</sup> The dry measure and the liquid measure will be uniform, with the liquid



measure containing five and a half gallons and the dry measure holding half a bushel. Their measurement will be one-tenth of the standard larger capacity measure.

<sup>12</sup> The shekel will weigh 20 gerahs. Your mina will equal 60 shekels.

<sup>13</sup> "This is the contribution you are to offer: Three quarts from five bushels of wheat and three quarts from five bushels of barley.

<sup>14</sup> The quota of oil in liquid measures will be one percent of every cor. The cor equals 10 liquid measures or one standard larger capacity measure, since 10 liquid measures equal one standard larger capacity measure.

<sup>15</sup> And the quota from the flock is one animal out of every 200 from the well-watered pastures of Israel. These are for the grain offerings, burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings, to

make atonement for the people." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> "All the people of the land must take part in this contribution for the prince in Israel.

<sup>17</sup> Then the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings for the festivals, New Moons, and Sabbaths--for all the appointed times of the house of Israel--will be the prince's responsibility. He will provide the sin offerings, grain offerings, burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings to make atonement on behalf of the house of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: In the first month , on the first day of the month, you are to take a young, unblemished bull and purify the sanctuary.

<sup>19</sup> The priest must take some of the blood from the sin offering and apply it to the temple doorposts, the four

corners of the altar's ledge, and the doorposts of the gate to the inner court.

<sup>20</sup> You must do the same thing on the seventh day of the month for everyone who sins unintentionally or through ignorance. In this way you will make atonement for the temple.

<sup>21</sup> "In the first month , on the fourteenth day of the month, you are to celebrate the Passover, a festival of seven days during which unleavened bread will be eaten.

<sup>22</sup> On that day the prince will provide a bull as a sin offering on behalf of himself and all the people of the land.

<sup>23</sup> During the seven days of the festival, he will provide seven bulls and seven rams without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD on each of the seven days, along with a male goat each day for a sin offering.

<sup>24</sup> He will also provide a grain offering of half a bushel per bull and half a bushel per ram, along with a gallon of oil for every half bushel.

<sup>25</sup> At the festival that begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, he will provide the same things for seven days--the same sin offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, and oil.

**46** <sup>1</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: The gate of the inner court that faces east must be closed during the six days of work, but it will be opened on the Sabbath day and opened on the day of the New Moon.

<sup>2</sup> The prince should enter from the outside by way of the gate's portico and stand at the doorpost of the gate while the priests sacrifice his burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He will bow in worship at the threshold of the gate and

then depart, but the gate must not be closed until evening.

<sup>3</sup> The people of the land will also bow in worship before the LORD at the entrance of that gate on the Sabbaths and New Moons.

<sup>4</sup> "The burnt offering that the prince presents to the LORD on the Sabbath day is to be six unblemished lambs and an unblemished ram.

<sup>5</sup> The grain offering will be half a bushel with the ram, and the grain offering with the lambs will be whatever he wants to give, as well as a gallon of oil for every half bushel.

<sup>6</sup> On the day of the New Moon, the burnt offering is to be a young, unblemished bull, as well as six lambs and a ram without blemish.

<sup>7</sup> He will provide a grain offering of half a bushel with the bull, half a bushel with the ram, and whatever he can afford

with the lambs, together with a gallon of oil for every half bushel.

<sup>8</sup> When the prince enters, he must go in by way of the gate's portico and go out the same way.

<sup>9</sup> "When the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed times, whoever enters by way of the north gate to worship must go out by way of the south gate, and whoever enters by way of the south gate must go out by way of the north gate. No one must return through the gate by which he entered, but must go out by the opposite gate.

<sup>10</sup> When the people enter, the prince will enter with them, and when they leave, he will leave.

<sup>11</sup> At the festivals and appointed times, the grain offering will be half a bushel with the bull, half a bushel with the ram, and whatever he wants to give with the

lambs, along with a gallon of oil for every half bushel.

<sup>12</sup> "When the prince makes a freewill offering, whether a burnt offering or a fellowship offering as a freewill offering to the LORD, the gate that faces east must be opened for him. He is to offer his burnt offering or fellowship offering just as he does on the Sabbath day. Then he will go out, and the gate must be closed after he leaves.

<sup>13</sup> "You must offer an unblemished year-old male lamb as a daily burnt offering to the LORD; you will offer it every morning.

<sup>14</sup> You must also prepare a grain offering every morning along with it: three quarts, with one-third of a gallon of oil to moisten the fine flour--a grain offering to the LORD. This is a permanent statute to be observed regularly.

<sup>15</sup> They will offer the lamb, the grain offering, and the oil every morning as a regular burnt offering.

<sup>16</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: If the prince gives a gift to each of his sons as their inheritance, it will belong to his sons. It will become their property by inheritance.

<sup>17</sup> But if he gives a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, it will belong to that servant until the year of freedom, when it will revert to the prince. His inheritance belongs only to his sons; it is theirs.

<sup>18</sup> The prince must not take any of the people's inheritance, evicting them from their property. He is to provide an inheritance for his sons from his own property, so that none of My people will be displaced from his own property."

<sup>19</sup> Then he brought me through the entrance that was at the side of the gate,



into the priests' holy chambers, which faced north. I saw a place there at the far western end.

<sup>20</sup> He said to me, "This is the place where the priests will boil the restitution offering and the sin offering, and where they will bake the grain offering, so that they do not bring them into the outer court and transmit holiness to the people."

<sup>21</sup> Next he brought me into the outer court and led me past its four corners. There was a separate court in each of its corners.

<sup>22</sup> In the four corners of the outer court there were enclosed courts, 70 feet long by 52 and a half feet wide. All four corner areas had the same dimensions.

<sup>23</sup> There was a stone wall around the inside of them, around the four of them, with ovens built at the base of the walls on all sides.

<sup>24</sup> He said to me: "These are the kitchens where those who minister at the temple will cook the people's sacrifices."

**47** <sup>1</sup> Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple and there was water flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the temple faced east. The water was coming down from under the south side of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.

<sup>2</sup> Next he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate that faced east; there the water was trickling from the south side.

<sup>3</sup> As the man went out east with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a third of a mile and led me through the water. It came up to my ankles.

<sup>4</sup> Then he measured off a third of a mile and led me through the water. It came up to my knees. He measured off another third of a mile and led me through the water . It came up to my waist.

<sup>5</sup> Again he measured off a third of a mile , and it was a river that I could not cross on foot . For the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed on foot .

<sup>6</sup> He asked me, "Do you see this , son of man?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river.

<sup>7</sup> When I had returned, I saw a very large number of trees along both sides of the riverbank.

<sup>8</sup> He said to me, "This water flows out to the eastern region and goes down to the Arabah. When it enters the sea, the sea of foul water, the water of the sea becomes fresh.

<sup>9</sup> Every kind of living creature that swarms will live wherever the river flows, and there will be a huge number of fish because this water goes there. Since the water will become fresh, there will be life everywhere the river goes.

<sup>10</sup> Fishermen will stand beside it from En-gedi to En-eglam. These will become places where nets are spread out to dry. Their fish will consist of many different kinds, like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>11</sup> Yet its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be left for salt.

<sup>12</sup> All kinds of trees providing food will grow along both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. Each month they will bear fresh fruit because the water comes from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be used for food and their leaves for medicine."

<sup>13</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says: "This is the border you will use to divide the land as an inheritance for the 12 tribes of Israel. Joseph will receive two shares.

<sup>14</sup> You will inherit it in equal portions, since I swore to give it to your ancestors. So this land will fall to you as an inheritance.

<sup>15</sup> "This is to be the border of the land: On the north side it will extend from the Mediterranean Sea by way of Hethlon and Lebo-hamath to Zedad,

<sup>16</sup> Berothah, and Sibraim (which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath), as far as Hazer-hatticon, which is on the border of Hauran.

<sup>17</sup> So the border will run from the sea to Hazar-enon at the border of Damascus, with the territory of Hamath to the north. This will be the northern side.

<sup>18</sup> On the east side it will run between Hauran and Damascus, along the Jordan between Gilead and the land of Israel; you will measure from the northern border to the eastern sea. This will be the eastern side.

<sup>19</sup> On the south side it will run from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, and on to the Brook of Egypt as far as the Mediterranean Sea. This will be the southern side.

<sup>20</sup> On the west side the Mediterranean Sea will be the border, from the southern border up to a point opposite Lebo-hamath. This will be the western side.

<sup>21</sup> "You are to divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel.

<sup>22</sup> You will allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners living among you, who have fathered

children among you. You will treat them like native-born Israelites; along with you, they will be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.

<sup>23</sup> In whatever tribe the foreigner lives, you will assign his inheritance there." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

**48** <sup>1</sup> "Now these are the names of the tribes: From the northern end, along the road of Hethlon, to Lebo-hamath as far as Hazar-enon, at the northern border of Damascus, alongside Hamath and extending from the eastern side to the sea, will be Dan--one portion.

<sup>2</sup> Next to the territory of Dan, from the east side to the west, will be Asher--one portion .

<sup>3</sup> Next to the territory of Asher, from the east side to the west, will be Naphtali--one portion .

<sup>4</sup> Next to the territory of Naphtali, from the east side to the west, will be Manasseh--one portion .

<sup>5</sup> Next to the territory of Manasseh, from the east side to the west, will be Ephraim--one portion .

<sup>6</sup> Next to the territory of Ephraim, from the east side to the west, will be Reuben--one portion .

<sup>7</sup> Next to the territory of Reuben, from the east side to the west, will be Judah--one portion .

<sup>8</sup> "Next to the territory of Judah, from the east side to the west, will be the portion you donate to the LORD , eight and one-third miles wide, and as long as one of the tribal portions from the east side to the west. The sanctuary will be in the middle of it.

<sup>9</sup> "The special portion you donate to the LORD will be eight and one-third miles long and three and one-third miles wide.



<sup>10</sup> This holy donation will be set apart for the priests alone . It will be eight and one-third miles long on the northern side, three and one-third miles wide on the western side, three and one-third miles wide on the eastern side, and eight and one-third miles long on the southern side. The LORD's sanctuary will be in the middle of it.

<sup>11</sup> It is for the consecrated priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept My charge and did not go astray as the Levites did when the Israelites went astray.

<sup>12</sup> It will be a special donation for them out of the holy donation of the land, a most holy place adjacent to the territory of the Levites.

<sup>13</sup> "Next to the territory of the priests, the Levites will have an area eight and one-third miles long and three and one-third miles wide. The total length

will be eight and one-third miles and the width three and one-third miles .

<sup>14</sup> They must not sell or exchange any of it, and they must not transfer this choice part of the land, for it is holy to the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> "The remaining area , one and two-thirds of a mile wide and eight and one-third miles long , will be for common use by the city, for both residential and open space. The city will be in the middle of it.

<sup>16</sup> These are the city's measurements: one and a half miles on the north side;one and a half miles on the south side;one and a half miles on the east side;and one and a half miles on the west side.

<sup>17</sup> The city's open space will extend: 425 feet to the north,425 feet to the south,425 feet to the east,and 425 feet to the west.

<sup>18</sup> "The remainder of the length alongside the holy donation will be three and one-third miles to the east and three and one-third miles to the west. It will run alongside the holy donation. Its produce will be food for the workers of the city.

<sup>19</sup> The city's workers from all the tribes of Israel will cultivate it.

<sup>20</sup> The entire donation will be eight and one-third miles by eight and one-third miles ; you are to set apart the holy donation along with the city property as a square area .

<sup>21</sup> "The remaining area on both sides of the holy donation and the city property will belong to the prince. He will own the land adjacent to the tribal portions, next to the eight and one-third miles of the donation as far as the eastern border and next to the eight and one-third miles of the donation as far as the western

border. The holy donation and the sanctuary of the temple will be in the middle of it.

<sup>22</sup> Except for the Levitical property and the city property in the middle of the area belonging to the prince, the area between the territory of Judah and that of Benjamin will belong to the prince.

<sup>23</sup> "As for the rest of the tribes: From the east side to the west, will be Benjamin--one portion .

<sup>24</sup> Next to the territory of Benjamin, from the east side to the west, will be Simeon--one portion .

<sup>25</sup> Next to the territory of Simeon, from the east side to the west, will be Issachar--one portion .

<sup>26</sup> Next to the territory of Issachar, from the east side to the west, will be Zebulun--one portion .

<sup>27</sup> Next to the territory of Zebulun, from the east side to the west, will be Gad--one portion .

<sup>28</sup> Next to the territory of Gad toward the south side, the border will run from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the Brook of Egypt , and out to the Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>29</sup> This is the land you are to allot as an inheritance to Israel's tribes, and these will be their portions." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

<sup>30</sup> "These are the exits of the city: On the north side, which measures one and a half miles ,

<sup>31</sup> there will be three gates facing north, the gates of the city being named for the tribes of Israel: one, the gate of Reuben; one, the gate of Judah; and one, the gate of Levi.

<sup>32</sup> On the east side, which is one and a half miles , there will be three gates:

one, the gate of Joseph; one, the gate of Benjamin; and one, the gate of Dan.

<sup>33</sup> On the south side, which measures one and a half miles , there will be three gates: one, the gate of Simeon; one, the gate of Issachar; and one, the gate of Zebulun.

<sup>34</sup> On the west side, which is one and a half miles , there will be three gates: one, the gate of Gad; one, the gate of Asher; and one, the gate of Naphtali.

<sup>35</sup> The perimeter of the city will be six miles , and the name of the city from that day on will be: Yahweh 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 laid siege to it.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord handed Jehoiakim king of Judah over to him, along with some of the vessels from the house of God. Nebuchadnezzar carried them to the land of Babylon, to the house of his god, and put the vessels in the treasury of his god.

<sup>3</sup> The king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some of the Israelites from the royal family and from the nobility--

<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, good-looking, suitable for instruction in all wisdom,

knowledgeable, perceptive, and capable of serving in the king's palace--and to teach them the Chaldean language and literature.

<sup>5</sup> The king assigned them daily provisions from the royal food and from the wine that he drank. They were to be trained for three years, and at the end of that time they were to serve in the king's court.

<sup>6</sup> Among them, from the descendants of Judah, were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

<sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them different names: to Daniel, he gave the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

<sup>8</sup> Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. So he asked



permission from the chief official not to defile himself.

<sup>9</sup> God had granted Daniel favor and compassion from the chief official,

<sup>10</sup> yet he said to Daniel, "My lord the king assigned your food and drink. I'm afraid of what would happen if he saw your faces looking thinner than those of the other young men your age. You would endanger my life with the king."

<sup>11</sup> So Daniel said to the guard whom the chief official had assigned to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

<sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for 10 days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.

<sup>13</sup> Then examine our appearance and the appearance of the young men who are eating the king's food, and deal with your servants based on what you see."

<sup>14</sup> He agreed with them in this matter and tested them for 10 days.

<sup>15</sup> At the end of 10 days they looked better and healthier than all the young men who were eating the king's food.

<sup>16</sup> So the guard continued to remove their food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

<sup>17</sup> God gave these four young men knowledge and understanding in every kind of literature and wisdom. Daniel also understood visions and dreams of every kind.

<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time that the king had said to present them, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>19</sup> The king interviewed them, and among all of them, no one was found equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they began to serve in the king's court.

<sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king consulted

them about, he found them 10 times better than all the diviner-priests and mediums in his entire kingdom.

<sup>21</sup> Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**2** <sup>1</sup> In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams that troubled him, and sleep deserted him.

<sup>2</sup> So the king gave orders to summon the diviner-priests, mediums, sorcerers, and Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. When they came and stood before the king,

<sup>3</sup> he said to them, "I have had a dream and am anxious to understand it."

<sup>4</sup> The Chaldeans spoke to the king (Aramaic begins here): "May the king live forever. Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

<sup>5</sup> The king replied to the Chaldeans, "My word is final: If you don't tell me the dream and its interpretation, you will be

torn limb from limb, and your houses will be made a garbage dump.

<sup>6</sup> But if you make the dream and its interpretation known to me, you'll receive gifts, a reward, and great honor from me. So make the dream and its interpretation known to me."

<sup>7</sup> They answered a second time, "May the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will give the interpretation."

<sup>8</sup> The king replied, "I know for certain you are trying to gain some time, because you see that my word is final.

<sup>9</sup> If you don't tell me the dream, there is one decree for you. You have conspired to tell me something false or fraudulent until the situation changes. So tell me the dream and I will know you can give me its interpretation."

<sup>10</sup> The Chaldeans answered the king, "No one on earth can make known what the king requests. Consequently,

no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked anything like this of any diviner-priest, medium, or Chaldean.

<sup>11</sup> What the king is asking is so difficult that no one can make it known to him except the gods, whose dwelling is not with mortals."

<sup>12</sup> Because of this, the king became violently angry and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

<sup>13</sup> The decree was issued that the wise men were to be executed, and they searched for Daniel and his friends, to execute them.

<sup>14</sup> Then Daniel responded with tact and discretion to Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, who had gone out to execute the wise men of Babylon.

<sup>15</sup> He asked Arioch, the king's officer, "Why is the decree from the king so harsh?" Then Arioch explained the situation to Daniel.

<sup>16</sup> So Daniel went and asked the king to give him some time, so that he could give the king the interpretation.

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went to his house and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah about the matter,

<sup>18</sup> urging them to ask the God of heaven for mercy concerning this mystery, so Daniel and his friends would not be killed with the rest of Babylon's wise men.

<sup>19</sup> The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night, and Daniel praised the God of heaven

<sup>20</sup> and declared: May the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him.

<sup>21</sup> He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.

<sup>22</sup> He reveals the deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.

<sup>23</sup> I offer thanks and praise to You, God of my fathers, because You have given me wisdom and power. And now You have let me know what we asked of You, for You have let us know the king's mystery.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had assigned to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He came and said to him, "Don't kill the wise men of Babylon! Bring me before the king, and I will give him the interpretation."

<sup>25</sup> Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king and said to him, "I have found a man among the Judean exiles who can let the king know the interpretation."

<sup>26</sup> The king said in reply to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you

able to tell me the dream I had and its interpretation?"

<sup>27</sup> Daniel answered the king: "No wise man, medium, diviner-priest, or astrologer is able to make known to the king the mystery he asked about.

<sup>28</sup> But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has let King Nebuchadnezzar know what will happen in the last days. Your dream and the visions that came into your mind as you lay in bed were these:

<sup>29</sup> Your Majesty, while you were in your bed, thoughts came to your mind about what will happen in the future. The revealer of mysteries has let you know what will happen.

<sup>30</sup> As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but in order that the interpretation might be made



known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

<sup>31</sup> "My king, as you were watching, a colossal statue appeared. That statue, tall and dazzling, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was terrifying.

<sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its stomach and thighs were bronze,

<sup>33</sup> its legs were iron, and its feet were partly iron and partly fired clay.

<sup>34</sup> As you were watching, a stone broke off without a hand touching it, struck the statue on its feet of iron and fired clay, and crushed them.

<sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the fired clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were shattered and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone

that struck the statue 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> Your Majesty, you are king of kings. The God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and glory.

<sup>38</sup> Wherever people live--or wild animals, or birds of the air--He has handed them over to you and made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold.

<sup>39</sup> "After you, there will arise another kingdom, inferior to yours, and then another, a third kingdom, of bronze, which will rule the whole earth.

<sup>40</sup> A fourth kingdom will be as strong as iron; for iron crushes and shatters everything, and like iron that smashes, it will crush and smash all the others.

<sup>41</sup> You saw the feet and toes, partly of a potter's fired clay and partly of iron--it

will be a divided kingdom, though some of the strength of iron will be in it. You saw the iron mixed with clay,

<sup>42</sup> and that the toes of the feet were part iron and part fired clay--part of the kingdom will be strong, and part will be brittle.

<sup>43</sup> You saw the iron mixed with clay--the peoples will mix with one another but will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with fired clay.

<sup>44</sup> "In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not be left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever.

<sup>45</sup> You saw a stone break off from the mountain without a hand touching it, and it crushed the iron, bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told the king what will happen in

the future. The dream is true, and its interpretation certain."

<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell down, paid homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present an offering and incense to him.

<sup>47</sup> The king said to Daniel, "Your God is indeed God of gods, Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, since you were able to reveal this mystery."

<sup>48</sup> Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many generous gifts. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon.

<sup>49</sup> At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to manage the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

**3** <sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue, 90 feet high and nine feet

wide. He set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

<sup>2</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to assemble the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces to attend the dedication of the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>3</sup> So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue the king had set up. Then they stood before the statue Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>4</sup> A herald loudly proclaimed, "People of every nation and language, you are commanded:

<sup>5</sup> When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, you are to fall down

and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

<sup>6</sup> But whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire."

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, and every kind of music, people of every nation and language fell down and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>8</sup> Some Chaldeans took this occasion to come forward and maliciously accuse the Jews.

<sup>9</sup> They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever.

<sup>10</sup> You as king have issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music must fall down and worship the gold statue.

<sup>11</sup> Whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>12</sup> There are some Jews you have appointed to manage the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men have ignored you, the king; they do not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

<sup>13</sup> Then in a furious rage Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to bring in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king.

<sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar asked them, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you don't serve my gods or worship the gold statue I have set up?

<sup>15</sup> Now if you're ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, fall

down and worship the statue I made. But if you don't worship it, you will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire--and who is the god who can rescue you from my power?"

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, "Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to give you an answer to this question.

<sup>17</sup> If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king.

<sup>18</sup> But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave orders to heat



the furnace seven times more than was customary,

<sup>20</sup> and he commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>21</sup> So these men, in their trousers, robes, head coverings, and other clothes, were tied up and thrown into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>22</sup> Since the king's command was so urgent and the furnace extremely hot, the raging flames killed those men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego up.

<sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm. He said to his advisers, "Didn't we throw three men, bound, into

the fire?" "Yes, of course, Your Majesty," they replied to the king.

<sup>25</sup> He exclaimed, "Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

<sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and called: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God--come out!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire.

<sup>27</sup> When the satraps, prefects, governors, and the king's advisers gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men: not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them.

<sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach,

and Abednego! He sent His angel and rescued His servants who trusted in Him. They violated the king's command and risked their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

<sup>29</sup> Therefore I issue a decree that anyone of any people, nation, or language who says anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn limb from limb and his house made a garbage dump. For there is no other god who is able to deliver like this."

<sup>30</sup> Then the king rewarded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

**4** <sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar, To those of every people, nation, and language, who live in all the earth: May your prosperity increase.

<sup>2</sup> I am pleased to tell you about the miracles and wonders the Most High God has done for me.

<sup>3</sup> How great are His miracles, and how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.

<sup>4</sup> I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace.

<sup>5</sup> I had a dream, and it frightened me; while in my bed, the images and visions in my mind alarmed me.

<sup>6</sup> So I issued a decree to bring all the wise men of Babylon to me in order that they might make the dream's interpretation known to me.

<sup>7</sup> When the diviner-priests, mediums, Chaldeans, and astrologers came in, I told them the dream, but they could not make its interpretation known to me.

<sup>8</sup> Finally Daniel, named Belteshazzar after the name of my god--and the spirit

of the holy gods is in him--came before me. I told him the dream:

<sup>9</sup> Belteshazzar, head of the diviners, because I know that you have a spirit of the holy gods and that no mystery puzzles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I saw, and its interpretation.

<sup>10</sup> In the visions of my mind as I was lying in bed, I saw this: There was a tree in the middle of the earth, and its height was great.

<sup>11</sup> The tree grew large and strong; its top reached to the sky, and it was visible to the ends of the earth.

<sup>12</sup> Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit was abundant, and on it was food for all. Wild animals found shelter under it, the birds of the air lived in its branches, and every creature was fed from it.

<sup>13</sup> As I was lying in my bed, I also saw in the visions of my mind an observer, a holy one, coming down from heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He called out loudly: Cut down the tree and chop off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it, and the birds from its branches.

<sup>15</sup> But leave the stump with its roots in the ground, and with a band of iron and bronze around it, in the tender grass of the field. Let him be drenched with dew from the sky and share the plants of the earth with the animals.

<sup>16</sup> Let his mind be changed from that of a man, and let him be given the mind of an animal for seven periods of time.

<sup>17</sup> This word is by decree of the observers; the matter is a command from the holy ones. This is so the living will know that the Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men. He gives it to

anyone He wants and sets over it the lowliest of men.

<sup>18</sup> This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because none of the wise men of my kingdom can make the interpretation known to me. But you can, because you have the spirit of the holy gods.

<sup>19</sup> Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was stunned for a moment, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king said, "Belteshazzar, don't let the dream or its interpretation alarm you." Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, may the dream apply to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your enemies!

<sup>20</sup> The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, whose top reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth,

<sup>21</sup> whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant--and on it was food for

all, under it the wild animals lived, and in its branches the birds of the air lived--

<sup>22</sup> that tree is you, the king. For you have become great and strong: your greatness has grown and even reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to the ends of the earth.

<sup>23</sup> "The king saw an observer, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump with its roots in the ground and with a band of iron and bronze around it, in the tender grass of the field. Let him be drenched with dew from the sky, and share food with the wild animals for seven periods of time.'

<sup>24</sup> This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the sentence of the Most High that has been passed against my lord the king:

<sup>25</sup> You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals. You will



feed on grass like cattle and be drenched with dew from the sky for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men, and He gives it to anyone He wants.

<sup>26</sup> As for the command to leave the tree's stump with its roots, your kingdom will be restored to you as soon as you acknowledge that Heaven rules.

<sup>27</sup> Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy. Perhaps there will be an extension of your prosperity."

<sup>28</sup> All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>29</sup> At the end of 12 months, as he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon,

<sup>30</sup> the king exclaimed, "Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built by my vast power to be a royal residence and to display my majestic glory?"

<sup>31</sup> While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared that the kingdom has departed from you.

<sup>32</sup> You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals, and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men, and He gives it to anyone He wants."

<sup>33</sup> At that moment the sentence against Nebuchadnezzar was executed. He was driven away from people. He ate grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky, until his hair

grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws .

<sup>34</sup> But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation.

<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing, and He does what He wants with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can hold back His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"

<sup>36</sup> At that time my sanity returned to me, and my majesty and splendor returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and my nobles sought me out, I was reestablished over

my kingdom, and even more greatness came to me.

<sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of heaven, because all His works are true and His ways are just. And He is able to humble those who walk in pride.

**5** <sup>1</sup> King Belshazzar held a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles and drank wine in their presence.

<sup>2</sup> Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the gold and silver vessels that his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines could drink from them.

<sup>3</sup> So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them.

<sup>4</sup> They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup> At that moment the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the king's palace wall next to the lampstand. As the king watched the hand that was writing,

<sup>6</sup> his face turned pale, and his thoughts so terrified him that his hip joints shook and his knees knocked together.

<sup>7</sup> The king called out to bring in the mediums, Chaldeans, and astrologers. He said to these wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this inscription and gives me its interpretation will be clothed in purple, have a gold chain around his neck, and have the third highest position in the kingdom."

<sup>8</sup> So all the king's wise men came in, but none could read the inscription or make known its interpretation to him.

<sup>9</sup> Then King Belshazzar became even more terrified, his face turned pale, and his nobles were bewildered.

<sup>10</sup> Because of the outcry of the king and his nobles, the queen came to the banquet hall. "May the king live forever," she said. "Don't let your thoughts terrify you or your face be pale.

<sup>11</sup> There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the days of your predecessor he was found to have insight, intelligence, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the diviners, mediums, Chaldeans, and astrologers. Your own predecessor, the king,

<sup>12</sup> did this because Daniel, the one the king named Belteshazzar, was found to have an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and perception, and the ability to interpret dreams, explain

riddles, and solve problems. Therefore, summon Daniel, and he will give the interpretation."

<sup>13</sup> Then Daniel was brought before the king. The king said to him, "Are you Daniel, one of the Judean exiles that my predecessor the king brought from Judah?

<sup>14</sup> I've heard that you have the spirit of the gods in you, and that you have insight, intelligence, and extraordinary wisdom.

<sup>15</sup> Now the wise men and mediums were brought before me to read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not give its interpretation.

<sup>16</sup> However, I have heard about you that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Therefore, if you can read this inscription and give me its interpretation, you will be clothed in

purple, have a gold chain around your neck, and have the third highest position in the kingdom."

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts, and give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription for the king and make the interpretation known to him.

<sup>18</sup> Your Majesty, the Most High God gave sovereignty, greatness, glory, and majesty to your predecessor Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>19</sup> Because of the greatness He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages were terrified and fearful of him. He killed anyone he wanted and kept alive anyone he wanted; he exalted anyone he wanted and humbled anyone he wanted.

<sup>20</sup> But when his heart was exalted and his spirit became arrogant, he was



deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken from him.

<sup>21</sup> He was driven away from people, his mind was like an animal's, he lived with the wild donkeys, he was fed grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky until he acknowledged that the Most High God is ruler over the kingdom of men and sets anyone He wants over it.

<sup>22</sup> "But you his successor, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this.

<sup>23</sup> Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven. The vessels from His house were brought to you, and as you and your nobles, wives, and concubines drank wine from them, you praised the gods made of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or understand. But you have not glorified the God who holds

your life-breath in His hand and who controls the whole course of your life.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore, He sent the hand, and this writing was inscribed.

<sup>25</sup> "This is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

<sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of the message: MENE means that God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end.

<sup>27</sup> TEKEL means that you have been weighed in the balance and found deficient.

<sup>28</sup> PERES means that your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

<sup>29</sup> Then Belshazzar gave an order, and they clothed Daniel in purple, placed a gold chain around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

<sup>30</sup> That very night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was killed,

<sup>31</sup> and Darius the Mede received the kingdom at the age of 62.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Darius decided to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, stationed throughout the realm,

<sup>2</sup> and over them three administrators, including Daniel. These satraps would be accountable to them so that the king would not be defrauded.

<sup>3</sup> Daniel distinguished himself above the administrators and satraps because he had an extraordinary spirit, so the king planned to set him over the whole realm.

<sup>4</sup> The administrators and satraps, therefore, kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, for he was trustworthy, and

no negligence or corruption was found in him.

<sup>5</sup> Then these men said, "We will never find any charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God."

<sup>6</sup> So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said to him, "May King Darius live forever.

<sup>7</sup> All the administrators of the kingdom, the prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors have agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an edict that for 30 days, anyone who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, Your Majesty, establish the edict and sign the document so that, as a law of the Medes and Persians, it is irrevocable and cannot be changed."

<sup>9</sup> So King Darius signed the document.

<sup>10</sup> When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upper room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

<sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel petitioning and imploring his God.

<sup>12</sup> So they approached the king and asked about his edict: "Didn't you sign an edict that for 30 days any man who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "As a law of the Medes and Persians, the order stands and is irrevocable."

<sup>13</sup> Then they replied to the king, "Daniel, one of the Judean exiles, has ignored you, the king, and the edict you signed, for he prays three times a day."

<sup>14</sup> As soon as the king heard this, he was very displeased; he set his mind on rescuing Daniel and made every effort until sundown to deliver him.

<sup>15</sup> Then these men went to the king and said to him, "You as king know it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or ordinance the king establishes can be changed."

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing in regard to Daniel could be changed.

<sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting. No diversions

were brought to him, and he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.

<sup>20</sup> When he reached the den, he cried out in anguish to Daniel. "Daniel, servant of the living God," the king said, "has your God whom you serve continually been able to rescue you from the lions?"

<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel spoke with the king: "May the king live forever.

<sup>22</sup> My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths. They haven't hurt me, for I was found innocent before Him. Also, I have not committed a crime against you my king."

<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to take Daniel out of the den. So Daniel was taken out of the den, uninjured, for he trusted in his God.

<sup>24</sup> The king then gave the command, and those men who had maliciously

accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the lions' den--they, their children, and their wives. They had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to those of every people, nation, and language who live in all the earth: "May your prosperity abound.

<sup>26</sup> I issue a decree that in all my royal dominion, people must tremble in fear before the God of Daniel: For He is the living God, and He endures forever; His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His dominion has no end.

<sup>27</sup> He rescues and delivers; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."



<sup>28</sup> So 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 had a dream with visions in his mind as he was lying in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and here is the summary of his account.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel said, "In my vision at night I was watching, and suddenly the four winds of heaven stirred up the great sea.

<sup>3</sup> Four huge beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

<sup>4</sup> "The first was like a lion but had eagle's wings. I continued watching until its wings were torn off. It was lifted up from the ground, set on its feet like a man, and given a human mind.

<sup>5</sup> "Suddenly, another beast appeared, a second one, that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It

was told, 'Get up! Gorge yourself on flesh.'

<sup>6</sup> "While I was watching, another beast appeared. It was like a leopard with four wings of a bird on its back. It had four heads and was given authority to rule.

<sup>7</sup> "While I was watching in the night visions, a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had 10 horns.

<sup>8</sup> "While I was considering the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. There were eyes in this horn like a man's, and it had a mouth that spoke arrogantly.

<sup>9</sup> "As I kept watching, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was white like snow, and the hair of His head like whitest wool. His throne was flaming fire; its wheels were blazing fire.

<sup>10</sup> A river of fire was flowing, coming out from His presence. Thousands upon thousands served Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was convened, and the books were opened.

<sup>11</sup> "I watched, then, because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued watching, the beast was killed and its body destroyed and given over to the burning fire.

<sup>12</sup> As for the rest of the beasts, their authority to rule was removed, but an extension of life was granted to them for a certain period of time.

<sup>13</sup> I continued watching in the night visions, and I saw One like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before Him.

<sup>14</sup> He was given authority to rule, and glory, and a kingdom; so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

<sup>15</sup> "As for me, Daniel, my spirit was deeply distressed within me, and the visions in my mind terrified me.

<sup>16</sup> I approached one of those who were standing by and asked him the true meaning of all this. So he let me know the interpretation of these things:

<sup>17</sup> 'These huge beasts, four in number, are four kings who will rise from the earth.

<sup>18</sup> But the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever, yes, forever and ever.'

<sup>19</sup> "Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, the one different from all the others, extremely terrifying, with iron teeth and bronze claws, devouring, crushing, and trampling with its feet whatever was left.

<sup>20</sup> I also wanted to know about the 10 horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three fell--the horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spoke arrogantly, and that was more visible than the others.

<sup>21</sup> As I was watching, this horn made war with the holy ones and was prevailing over them

<sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days arrived and a judgment was given in favor of the holy ones of the Most High, for the time had

come, and the holy ones took possession of the kingdom.

<sup>23</sup> "This is what he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, different from all the other kingdoms. It will devour the whole earth, trample it down, and crush it.

<sup>24</sup> The 10 horns are 10 kings who will rise from this kingdom. Another, different from the previous ones, will rise after them and subdue three kings.

<sup>25</sup> He will speak words against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High. He will intend to change religious festivals and laws, and the holy ones will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.

<sup>26</sup> But the court will convene, and his dominion will be taken away, to be completely destroyed forever.

<sup>27</sup> The kingdom, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of

heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey Him.'

<sup>28</sup> "This is the end of the interpretation. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts terrified me greatly, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

**8** <sup>1</sup> In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after the one that had appeared to me earlier.

<sup>2</sup> I saw the vision, and as I watched, I was in the fortress city of Susa, in the province of Elam. I saw in the vision that I was beside the Ulai Canal.

<sup>3</sup> I looked up, and there was a ram standing beside the canal. He had two horns. The two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, and the longer one came up last.

<sup>4</sup> I saw the ram charging to the west, the north, and the south. No animal could stand against him, and there was no rescue from his power. He did whatever he wanted and became great.

<sup>5</sup> As I was observing, a male goat appeared, coming from the west across the surface of the entire earth without touching the ground. The goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

<sup>6</sup> He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and rushed at him with savage fury.

<sup>7</sup> I saw him approaching the ram, and infuriated with him, he struck the ram, shattering his two horns, and the ram was not strong enough to stand against him. The goat threw him to the ground and trampled him, and there was no one to rescue the ram from his power.

<sup>8</sup> Then the male goat became very great, but when he became powerful,



the large horn was shattered. Four conspicuous horns came up in its place, pointing toward the four winds of heaven.

<sup>9</sup> From one of them a little horn emerged and grew extensively toward the south and the east and toward the beautiful land.

<sup>10</sup> It grew as high as the heavenly host, made some of the stars and some of the host fall to the earth, and trampled them.

<sup>11</sup> It made itself great, even up to the Prince of the host; it removed His daily sacrifice and overthrew the place of His sanctuary.

<sup>12</sup> Because of rebellion, a host, together with the daily sacrifice, will be given over. The horn will throw truth to the ground and will be successful in whatever it does.

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the speaker, "How long will the events of this vision last--the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and of the host to be trampled?"

<sup>14</sup> He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be restored."

<sup>15</sup> While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there stood before me someone who appeared to be a man.

<sup>16</sup> I heard a human voice calling from the middle of the Ulai: "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man."

<sup>17</sup> So he approached where I was standing; when he came near, I was terrified and fell facedown. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision refers to the time of the end."

<sup>18</sup> While he was speaking to me, I fell into a deep sleep, with my face to the ground . Then he touched me, made me stand up,

<sup>19</sup> and said, "I am here to tell you what will happen at the conclusion of the time of wrath, because it refers to the appointed time of the end.

<sup>20</sup> The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.

<sup>21</sup> The shaggy goat represents the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes represents the first king.

<sup>22</sup> The four horns that took the place of the shattered horn represent four kingdoms. They will rise from that nation, but without its power.

<sup>23</sup> Near the end of their kingdoms, when the rebels have reached the full measure of their sin, an insolent king,

skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne.

<sup>24</sup> His power will be great, but it will not be his own. He will cause terrible destruction and succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the powerful along with the holy people.

<sup>25</sup> He will cause deceit to prosper through his cunning and by his influence, and in his own mind he will make himself great. In a time of peace, he will destroy many; he will even stand against the Prince of princes. But he will be shattered, not by human hands.

<sup>26</sup> The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true. Now you must seal up the vision because it refers to many days in the future ."

<sup>27</sup> I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was greatly

disturbed by the vision and could not understand it.

**9**<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius, who was the son of Ahasuerus, was a Mede by birth, and was ruler over the kingdom of the Chaldeans--

<sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the books according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet that the number of years for the desolation of Jerusalem would be 70.

<sup>3</sup> So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and petitions, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: Ah, Lord--the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps His gracious covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments--

<sup>5</sup> we have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, and turned away from Your commandments and ordinances.

<sup>6</sup> We have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, leaders, fathers, and all the people of the land.

<sup>7</sup> Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but this day public shame belongs to us: the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, and all Israel--those who are near and those who are far, in all the countries where You have dispersed them because of the disloyalty they have shown toward You.

<sup>8</sup> LORD, public shame belongs to us, our kings, our leaders, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.

<sup>9</sup> Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against Him

<sup>10</sup> and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by following His instructions that He set before us through His servants the prophets.

<sup>11</sup> All Israel has broken Your law and turned away, refusing to obey You. The promised curse written in the law of Moses, the servant of God, has been poured out on us because we have sinned against Him.

<sup>12</sup> He has carried out His words that He spoke against us and against our rulers by bringing on us so great a disaster that nothing like what has been done to Jerusalem has ever been done under all of heaven.

<sup>13</sup> Just as it is written in the law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not appeased the LORD our God by turning from our injustice and paying attention to Your truth.

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD kept the disaster in mind and brought it on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all He has done. But we have not obeyed Him.

<sup>15</sup> Now, Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and made Your name renowned as it is this day, we have sinned, we have acted wickedly.

<sup>16</sup> Lord, in keeping with all Your righteous acts, may Your anger and wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the injustices of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become an object of ridicule to all those around us.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, our God, hear the prayer and the petitions of Your servant. Show Your favor to Your desolate sanctuary for the Lord's sake.

<sup>18</sup> Listen, my God, and hear. Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city called by Your name. For we are not presenting our petitions before You



based on our righteous acts, but based on Your abundant compassion.

<sup>19</sup> Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and act! My God, for Your own sake, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.

<sup>20</sup> While I was speaking, praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my petition before Yahweh my God concerning the holy mountain of my God--

<sup>21</sup> while I was praying, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the first vision, came to me in my extreme weariness, about the time of the evening offering.

<sup>22</sup> He gave me this explanation:  
"Daniel, I've come now to give you understanding.

<sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your petitions an answer went out, and I have come to give it, for you are treasured by God . So

consider the message and understand the vision:

<sup>24</sup> Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city--to bring the rebellion to an end, to put a stop to sin, to wipe away injustice, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place.

<sup>25</sup> Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and 62 weeks. It will be rebuilt with a plaza and a moat, but in difficult times.

<sup>26</sup> After those 62 weeks the Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the coming prince will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come with a flood, and until the end there will be war; desolations are decreed.

<sup>27</sup> He will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and offering. And the abomination of desolation will be on a wing of the temple until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator."

**10** <sup>1</sup> In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. The message was true and was about a great conflict. He understood the message and had understanding of the vision.

<sup>2</sup> In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three full weeks.

<sup>3</sup> I didn't eat any rich food, no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I didn't put any oil on my body until the three weeks were over.

<sup>4</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,

<sup>5</sup> I looked up, and there was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> His body was like topaz, his face like the brilliance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

<sup>7</sup> Only I, Daniel, saw the vision. The men who were with me did not see it, but a great terror fell on them, and they ran and hid.

<sup>8</sup> I was left alone, looking at this great vision. No strength was left in me; my face grew deathly pale, and I was powerless.

<sup>9</sup> I heard the words he said, and when I heard them I fell into a deep sleep, with my face to the ground.

<sup>10</sup> Suddenly, a hand touched me and raised me to my hands and knees.

<sup>11</sup> He said to me, "Daniel, you are a man treasured by God . Understand the words that I'm saying to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you." After he said this to me, I stood trembling.

<sup>12</sup> "Don't be afraid, Daniel," he said to me, "for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers.

<sup>13</sup> But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

<sup>14</sup> Now I have come to help you understand what will happen to your people in the last days, for the vision refers to those days."

<sup>15</sup> While he was saying these words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and was speechless.

<sup>16</sup> Suddenly one with human likeness touched my lips. I opened my mouth and said to the one standing in front of me, "My lord, because of the vision, I am overwhelmed and powerless.

<sup>17</sup> How can someone like me, your servant, speak with someone like you, my lord? Now I have no strength, and there is no breath in me."

<sup>18</sup> Then the one with human likeness touched me again and strengthened me.

<sup>19</sup> He said, "Don't be afraid, you who are treasured by God . Peace to you; be very strong!" As he spoke to me, I

was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

<sup>20</sup> He said, "Do you know why I've come to you? I must return at once to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I leave, the prince of Greece will come.

<sup>21</sup> No one has the courage to support me against them except Michael, your prince. However, I will tell you what is recorded in the book of truth.

**11** <sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to strengthen and protect him.

<sup>2</sup> Now I will tell you the truth. "Three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth will be far richer than the others. By the power he gains through his riches, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.

<sup>3</sup> Then a warrior king will arise; he will rule a vast realm and do whatever he wants.

<sup>4</sup> But as soon as he is established, his kingdom will be broken up and divided to the four winds of heaven, but not to his descendants; it will not be the same kingdom that he ruled, because his kingdom will be uprooted and will go to others besides them.

<sup>5</sup> "The king of the South will grow powerful, but one of his commanders will grow more powerful and will rule a kingdom greater than his.

<sup>6</sup> After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to seal the agreement. She will not retain power, and his strength will not endure. She will be given up, together with her entourage, her father, and the one who supported her during those times.

<sup>7</sup> In the place of the king of the South, one from her family will rise up, come against the army, and enter the fortress



of the king of the North. He will take action against them and triumph.

<sup>8</sup> He will take even their gods captive to Egypt, with their metal images and their precious articles of silver and gold. For some years he will stay away from the king of the North,

<sup>9</sup> who will enter the kingdom of the king of the South and then return to his own land.

<sup>10</sup> "His sons will mobilize for war and assemble a large number of armed forces. They will advance, sweeping through like a flood, and will again wage war as far as his fortress.

<sup>11</sup> Infuriated, the king of the South will march out to fight with the king of the North, who will raise a great multitude, but the multitude will be handed over to his enemy.

<sup>12</sup> When the multitude is carried off, he will become arrogant and cause tens

of thousands to fall, but he will not triumph.

<sup>13</sup> The king of the North will again raise a multitude larger than the first. After some years he will advance with a great army and many supplies.

<sup>14</sup> "In those times many will rise up against the king of the South. Violent ones among your own people will assert themselves to fulfill a vision, but they will fail.

<sup>15</sup> Then the king of the North will come, build up an assault ramp, and capture a well-fortified city. The forces of the South will not stand; even their select troops will not be able to resist.

<sup>16</sup> The king of the North who comes against him will do whatever he wants, and no one can oppose him. He will establish himself in the beautiful land with total destruction in his hand.

<sup>17</sup> He will resolve to come with the force of his whole kingdom and will reach an agreement with him. He will give him a daughter in marriage to destroy it, but she will not stand with him or support him.

<sup>18</sup> Then he will turn his attention to the coasts and islands and capture many. But a commander will put an end to his taunting; instead, he will turn his taunts against him.

<sup>19</sup> He will turn his attention back to the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble, fall, and be no more.

<sup>20</sup> "In his place one will arise who will send out a tax collector for the glory of the kingdom; but within a few days he will be shattered, though not in anger or in battle.

<sup>21</sup> "In his place a despised person will arise; royal honors will not be given to

him, but he will come during a time of peace and seize the kingdom by intrigue.

<sup>22</sup> A flood of forces will be swept away before him; they will be shattered, as well as the covenant prince.

<sup>23</sup> After an alliance is made with him, he will act deceitfully. He will rise to power with a small nation.

<sup>24</sup> During a time of peace, he will come into the richest parts of the province and do what his fathers and predecessors never did. He will lavish plunder, loot, and wealth on his followers, and he will make plans against fortified cities, but only for a time.

<sup>25</sup> "With a large army he will stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will prepare for battle with an extremely large and powerful army, but he will not succeed, because plots will be made against him.

<sup>26</sup> Those who eat his provisions will destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall slain.

<sup>27</sup> The two kings, whose hearts are bent on evil, will speak lies at the same table but to no avail, for still the end will come at the appointed time.

<sup>28</sup> The king of the North will return to his land with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant; he will take action, then return to his own land.

<sup>29</sup> "At the appointed time he will come again to the South, but this time will not be like the first.

<sup>30</sup> Ships of Kittim will come against him, and being intimidated, he will withdraw. Then he will rage against the holy covenant and take action. On his return, he will favor those who abandon the holy covenant.

<sup>31</sup> His forces will rise up and desecrate the temple fortress. They will abolish the daily sacrifice and set up the abomination of desolation.

<sup>32</sup> With flattery he will corrupt those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will be strong and take action.

<sup>33</sup> Those who are wise among the people will give understanding to many, yet they will die by sword and flame, and be captured and plundered for a time.

<sup>34</sup> When defeated, they will be helped by some, but many others will join them insincerely.

<sup>35</sup> Some of the wise will fall so that they may be refined, purified, and cleansed until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

<sup>36</sup> "Then the king will do whatever he wants. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and he will say

outrageous things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, because what has been decreed will be accomplished.

<sup>37</sup> He will not show regard for the gods of his fathers, the god longed for by women, or for any other god, because he will magnify himself above all.

<sup>38</sup> Instead, he will honor a god of fortresses--a god his fathers did not know--with gold, silver, precious stones, and riches.

<sup>39</sup> He will deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. He will greatly honor those who acknowledge him, making them rulers over many and distributing land as a reward.

<sup>40</sup> "At the time of the end, the king of the South will engage him in battle, but the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, horsemen,

and many ships. He will invade countries and sweep through them like a flood.

<sup>41</sup> He will also invade the beautiful land, and many will fall. But these will escape from his power: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of the Ammonites.

<sup>42</sup> He will extend his power against the countries, and not even the land of Egypt will escape.

<sup>43</sup> He will get control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the riches of Egypt. The Libyans and Cushites will also be in submission.

<sup>44</sup> But reports from the east and the north will terrify him, and he will go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.

<sup>45</sup> He will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful holy mountain, but he will meet his end with no one to help him.



**12** <sup>1</sup> At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.

<sup>2</sup> Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to eternal life, and some to shame and eternal contempt.

<sup>3</sup> Those who are wise will shine like the bright expanse of the heavens , and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

<sup>4</sup> "But you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam about, and knowledge will increase."

<sup>5</sup> Then I, Daniel, looked, and two others were standing there, one on this bank of the river and one on the other.

<sup>6</sup> One said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long until the end of these extraordinary things?"

<sup>7</sup> Then I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river. He raised both his hands toward heaven and swore by Him who lives eternally that it would be for a time, times, and half a time . When the power of the holy people is shattered, all these things will be completed.

<sup>8</sup> I heard but did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these things?"

<sup>9</sup> He said, "Go on your way, Daniel, for the words are secret and sealed until the time of the end.

<sup>10</sup> Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; none of the wicked will understand, but the wise will understand.

<sup>11</sup> From the time the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches 1,335 days.

<sup>13</sup> But as for you, go on your way to the end; you will rest, then rise to your destiny at the end of the days."

# Hosea

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> When the LORD first spoke to Hosea, He said this to him: Go and marry a promiscuous wife and have children of promiscuity, for the whole land has been promiscuous by abandoning the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> So he went and married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him: Name him Jezreel, for in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu and put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

<sup>6</sup> She conceived again and gave birth to a daughter, and the LORD said to him: Name her No Compassion, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel. I will certainly take them away.

<sup>7</sup> But I will have compassion on the house of Judah, and I will deliver them by the LORD their God. I will not deliver them by bow, sword, or war, or by horses and cavalry.

<sup>8</sup> After Gomer had weaned No Compassion, she conceived and gave birth to a son.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said: Name him Not My People, for you are not My people, and I will not be your God.

<sup>10</sup> Yet the number of the Israelites will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted. And in the place where they were told: You are not

My people, they will be called: Sons of the living God.

<sup>11</sup> And the Judeans and the Israelites will be gathered together. They will appoint for themselves a single ruler, and go up from the land. For the day of Jezreel will be great.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Call your brothers: My People and your sisters: Compassion.

<sup>2</sup> Rebuke your mother; rebuke her . For she is not My wife and I am not her husband. Let her remove the promiscuous look from her face and her adultery from between her breasts.

<sup>3</sup> Otherwise, I will strip her naked and expose her as she was on the day of her birth. I will make her like a desert and like a parched land, and I will let her die of thirst.

<sup>4</sup> I will have no compassion on her children because they are the children of promiscuity.

<sup>5</sup> For their mother is promiscuous; she conceived them and acted shamefully. For she thought: I will go after my lovers, the men who give me my food and water, my wool and flax, my oil and drink.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, this is what I will do: I will block her way with thorns; I will enclose her with a wall, so that she cannot find her paths.

<sup>7</sup> She will pursue her lovers but not catch them; she will seek them but not find them. Then she will think: I will go back to my former husband, for then it was better for me than now.

<sup>8</sup> She does not recognize that it is I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil. I lavished silver and gold on her, which they used for Baal.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, I will take back My grain in its time and My new wine in its season; I

will take away My wool and linen, which were to cover her nakedness.

<sup>10</sup> Now I will expose her shame in the sight of her lovers, and no one will rescue her from My hands.

<sup>11</sup> I will put an end to all her celebrations: her feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths--all her festivals.

<sup>12</sup> I will devastate her vines and fig trees. She thinks that these are her wages that her lovers have given her. I will turn them into a thicket, and the wild animals will eat them.

<sup>13</sup> And I will punish her for the days of the Baals when she burned incense to them, put on her rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but forgot Me. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, I am going to persuade her, lead her to the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.



<sup>15</sup> There I will give her vineyards back to her and make the Valley of Achor into a gateway of hope. There she will respond as she did in the days of her youth, as in the day she came out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> In that day--the LORD's declaration--you will call Me : My husband, and no longer call Me: My Baal.

<sup>17</sup> For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth; they will no longer be remembered by their names.

<sup>18</sup> On that day I will make a covenant for them with the wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the creatures that crawl on the ground. I will shatter bow, sword, and weapons of war in the land and will enable the people to rest securely.

<sup>19</sup> I will take you to be My wife forever. I will take you to be My wife in righteousness, justice, love, and compassion.

<sup>20</sup> I will take you to be My wife in faithfulness, and you will know the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> On that day I will respond--the LORD's declaration. I will respond to the sky, and it will respond to the earth.

<sup>22</sup> The earth will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel.

<sup>23</sup> I will sow her in the land for Myself, and I will have compassion on No Compassion; I will say to Not My People: You are My people, and he will say: You are My God.

**3**<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Go again; show love to a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, just as the LORD loves the Israelites though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes."

<sup>2</sup> So I bought her for 15 shekels of silver and five bushels of barley.

<sup>3</sup> I said to her, "You must live with me many days. Don't be promiscuous or belong to any man, and I will act the same way toward you."

<sup>4</sup> For the Israelites must live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or household idols.

<sup>5</sup> Afterwards, the people of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come with awe to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

**4** <sup>1</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, people of Israel, for the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth, no faithful love, and no knowledge of God in the land!

<sup>2</sup> Cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and adultery are rampant; one act of bloodshed follows another.

<sup>3</sup> For this reason the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes, along with the wild animals and the birds of the sky; even the fish of the sea disappear.

<sup>4</sup> But let no one dispute; let no one argue, for My case is against you priests.

<sup>5</sup> You will stumble by day; the prophet will also 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 will reject you from serving as My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your sons.

<sup>7</sup> The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me. I will change their honor into disgrace.

<sup>8</sup> They feed on the sin of My people; they have an appetite for their transgressions.

<sup>9</sup> The same judgment will happen to both people and priests. I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.

<sup>10</sup> They will eat but not be satisfied; they will be promiscuous but not multiply; for they have abandoned their devotion to the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Promiscuity, wine, and new wine take away one's understanding.

<sup>12</sup> My people consult their wooden idols , and their divining rods inform them. For a spirit of promiscuity leads them astray; they act promiscuously in disobedience to their God.

<sup>13</sup> They sacrifice on the mountaintops, and they burn offerings on the hills, and under oaks, poplars, and terebinths, because their shade is pleasant. And so your daughters act promiscuously and your daughters-in-law commit adultery.

<sup>14</sup> I will not punish your daughters when they act promiscuously or your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery, for the men themselves go off with prostitutes and make sacrifices with cult prostitutes. People without discernment are doomed.

<sup>15</sup> Israel, if you act promiscuously, don't let Judah become guilty! Do not go to Gilgal or make a pilgrimage to Beth-aven, and do not swear an oath: As the LORD lives!

<sup>16</sup> For Israel is as obstinate as a stubborn cow. Can the LORD now shepherd them like a lamb in an open meadow?

<sup>17</sup> Ephraim is attached to idols; leave him alone!

<sup>18</sup> When their drinking is over, they turn to promiscuity. Israel's leaders fervently love disgrace.

<sup>19</sup> A wind with its wings will carry them off, and they will be ashamed of their sacrifices.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Hear this, priests! Pay attention, house of Israel! Listen, royal house! For the judgment applies to you because you have been a snare at Mizpah and a net spread out on Tabor.

<sup>2</sup> Rebels are deeply involved in slaughter; I will be a punishment for all of them.

<sup>3</sup> I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me. For now, Ephraim, you have acted promiscuously; Israel is defiled.

<sup>4</sup> Their actions do not allow them to return to their God, for a spirit of promiscuity is among them, and they do not know the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Israel's arrogance testifies against them. Both Israel and Ephraim stumble

because of their wickedness; even Judah will stumble with them.

<sup>6</sup> They go with their flocks and herds to seek the LORD but do not find Him ; He has withdrawn from them.

<sup>7</sup> They betrayed the LORD; indeed, they gave birth to illegitimate children. Now the New Moon will devour them along with their fields.

<sup>8</sup> Blow the horn in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah; raise the war cry in Beth-aven: After you, Benjamin!

<sup>9</sup> Ephraim will become a desolation on the day of punishment; I announce what is certain among the tribes of Israel.

<sup>10</sup> The princes of Judah are like those who move boundary markers; I will pour out My fury on them like water.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, for he is determined to follow what is worthless.



<sup>12</sup> So I am like rot to Ephraim and like decay to the house of Judah.

<sup>13</sup> When Ephraim saw his sickness and Judah his wound, Ephraim went to Assyria and sent a delegation to the great king. But he cannot cure you or heal your wound.

<sup>14</sup> For I am like a lion to Ephraim and like a young lion to the house of Judah. Yes, I will tear them to pieces and depart. I will carry them off, and no one can rescue them .

<sup>15</sup> I will depart and return to My place until they recognize their guilt and seek My face; they will search for Me in their distress.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Come, let us return to the LORD.  
For He has torn us , and He will heal us; He has wounded us , and He will bind up our wounds.

<sup>2</sup> He will revive us after two days, and on the third day He will raise us up so we can live in His presence.

<sup>3</sup> Let us strive to know the LORD. His appearance is as sure as the dawn. He will come to us like the rain, like the spring showers that water the land.

<sup>4</sup> What am I going to do with you, Ephraim? What am I going to do with you, Judah? Your loyalty is like the morning mist and like the early dew that vanishes.

<sup>5</sup> This is why I have used the prophets to cut them down; I have killed them with the words of My mouth. My judgment strikes like lightning.

<sup>6</sup> For I desire loyalty and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

<sup>7</sup> But they, like Adam, have violated the covenant; there they have betrayed Me.

<sup>8</sup> Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with bloody footprints.

<sup>9</sup> Like robbers who wait in ambush for someone, a band of priests murders on the road to Shechem. They commit atrocities.

<sup>10</sup> I have seen something horrible in the house of Israel: Ephraim's promiscuity is there; Israel is defiled.

<sup>11</sup> A harvest is also appointed for you, Judah. When I return My people from captivity,

**7** <sup>1</sup> when I heal Israel, the sins of Ephraim and the crimes of Samaria will be exposed. For they practice fraud; a thief breaks in; a gang pillages outside.

<sup>2</sup> But they never consider that I remember all their evil. Now their sins are all around them; they are right in front of My face.

<sup>3</sup> They please the king with their evil, the princes with their lies.

<sup>4</sup> All of them commit adultery; they are like an oven heated by a baker who stops stirring the fire from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.

<sup>5</sup> On the day of our king, the princes are sick with the heat of wine--there is a conspiracy with traitors.

<sup>6</sup> For they--their hearts like an oven--draw him into their oven. Their anger smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

<sup>7</sup> All of them are as hot as an oven, and they consume their rulers. All their kings fall; not one of them calls on Me.

<sup>8</sup> Ephraim has allowed himself to get mixed up with the nations. Ephraim is unturned bread, baked on a griddle.

<sup>9</sup> Foreigners consume his strength, but he does not notice. Even his hair is streaked with gray, but he does not notice.

<sup>10</sup> Israel's arrogance testifies against them, yet they do not return to the LORD their God, and for all this, they do not seek Him.

<sup>11</sup> So Ephraim has become like a silly, senseless dove; they call to Egypt, and they go to Assyria.

<sup>12</sup> As they are going, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like birds of the sky. I will discipline them in accordance with the news that reaches their assembly.

<sup>13</sup> Woe to them, for they fled from Me; destruction to them, for they rebelled against Me! Though I want to redeem them, they speak lies against Me.

<sup>14</sup> They do not cry to Me from their hearts; rather, they wail on their beds. They slash themselves for grain and wine; they turn away from Me.

<sup>15</sup> I trained and strengthened their arms, but they plot evil against Me.

<sup>16</sup> They turn, but not to what is above; they are like a faulty bow. Their leaders will fall by the sword because of the cursing of their tongue. They will be ridiculed for this in the land of Egypt.

**8** <sup>1</sup> Put the horn to your mouth! One like an eagle comes against the house of the LORD, because they transgress My covenant and rebel against My law.

<sup>2</sup> Israel cries out to Me: My God, we know You!

<sup>3</sup> Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him.

<sup>4</sup> They have installed kings, but not through Me. They have appointed leaders, but without My approval. They make their silver and gold into idols for themselves for their own destruction.

<sup>5</sup> Your calf-idol is rejected, Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence?

<sup>6</sup> For this thing is from Israel--a craftsman made it, and it is not God. The calf of Samaria will be smashed to bits!

<sup>7</sup> Indeed, they sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. There is no standing grain; what sprouts fails to yield flour. Even if they did, foreigners would swallow it up.

<sup>8</sup> Israel is swallowed up! Now they are among the nations like discarded pottery.

<sup>9</sup> For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey going off on its own. Ephraim has paid for love.

<sup>10</sup> Even though they hire lovers among the nations, I will now round them up, and they will begin to decrease in number under the burden of the king and leaders.

<sup>11</sup> When Ephraim multiplied his altars for sin, they became his altars for sinning.

<sup>12</sup> Though I were to write out for him ten thousand points of My law, they would be regarded as something alien.

<sup>13</sup> Though they offer sacrificial gifts and eat the flesh, the LORD does not accept them. Now He will remember their guilt and punish their sins; they will return to Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; Judah has also multiplied fortified cities. I will send fire on their cities, and it will consume their citadels.

**9** <sup>1</sup> Israel, do not rejoice jubilantly as the nations do, for you have acted promiscuously, leaving your God. You have loved the wages of a prostitute on every grain-threshing floor.

<sup>2</sup> Threshing floor and wine vat will not sustain them, and the new wine will fail them.

<sup>3</sup> They will not stay in the land of the LORD. Instead, Ephraim will return to



Egypt, and they will eat unclean food in Assyria.

<sup>4</sup> They will not pour out their wine offerings to the LORD, and their sacrifices will not please Him. Their food will be like the bread of mourners; all who eat it become defiled. For their bread will be for their appetites alone ; it will not enter the house of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> What will you do on a festival day, on the day of the LORD's feast?

<sup>6</sup> For even if they flee from devastation, Egypt will gather them, and Memphis will bury them. Thistles will take possession of their precious silver; thorns will invade their tents.

<sup>7</sup> The days of punishment have come; the days of retribution have come. Let Israel recognize it! The prophet is a fool, and the inspired man is insane, because of the magnitude of your guilt and hostility.

<sup>8</sup> Ephraim's watchman is with my God. The prophet encounters a fowler's snare on all his ways. Hostility is in the house of his God!

<sup>9</sup> They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah. He will remember their guilt; He will punish their sins.

<sup>10</sup> I discovered Israel like grapes in the wilderness. I saw your fathers like the first fruit of the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal-peor, consecrated themselves to Shame, and became detestable, like the thing they loved.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird: no birth, no gestation, no conception.

<sup>12</sup> Even if they raise children, I will bereave them of each one. Yes, woe to them when I depart from them!

<sup>13</sup> I have seen Ephraim like Tyre, planted in a meadow, so Ephraim will bring out his children to the executioner.

<sup>14</sup> Give them, LORD--What should You give? Give them a womb that miscarries and breasts that are dry!

<sup>15</sup> All their evil appears at Gilgal, for there I came to hate them. I will drive them from My house because of their evil, wicked actions. I will no longer love them; all their leaders are rebellious.

<sup>16</sup> Ephraim is blighted; their roots are withered; they cannot bear fruit. Even if they bear children, I will kill the precious offspring of their wombs.

<sup>17</sup> My God will reject them because they have not listened to Him; they will become wanderers among the nations.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Israel is a lush vine; it yields fruit for itself. The more his fruit increased, the more he increased the

altars. The better his land produced, the better they made the sacred pillars.

<sup>2</sup> Their hearts are devious; now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars and demolish their sacred pillars.

<sup>3</sup> In fact, they are now saying: "We have no king! For we do not fear the LORD. What can a king do for us?"

<sup>4</sup> They speak mere words, taking false oaths while making covenants. So lawsuits break out like poisonous weeds in the furrows of a field.

<sup>5</sup> The residents of Samaria will have anxiety over the calf of Beth-aven. Indeed, its idolatrous priests rejoiced over it; the people will mourn over it, over its glory. It will certainly depart from them.

<sup>6</sup> The calf itself will be taken to Assyria as an offering to the great king. Ephraim

will experience shame; Israel will be ashamed of its counsel.

<sup>7</sup> Samaria's king will disappear like foam on the surface of the water.

<sup>8</sup> The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; thorns and thistles will grow over their altars. They will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" and to the hills, "Fall on us!"

<sup>9</sup> Israel, you have sinned since the days of Gibeah; they have taken their stand there. Will not war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah?

<sup>10</sup> I will discipline them at my discretion; nations will be gathered against them to put them in bondage for their two crimes.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim is a well-trained young cow that loves to thresh, but I will place a yoke on her fine neck. I will harness Ephraim; Judah will plow; Jacob will do the final plowing.

<sup>12</sup> Sow righteousness for yourselves and reap faithful love; break up your untilled ground. It is time to seek the LORD until He comes and sends righteousness on you like the rain.

<sup>13</sup> You have plowed wickedness and reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in your large number of soldiers,

<sup>14</sup> the roar of battle will rise against your people, and all your fortifications will be demolished in a day of war, like Shalman's destruction of Beth-arbel. Mothers will be dashed to pieces along with their children.

<sup>15</sup> So it will be done to you, Bethel, because of your extreme evil. At dawn the king of Israel will be totally destroyed.

**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 called them, the more they departed from Me. They kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

<sup>3</sup> It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them in My arms, but they never knew that I healed them.

<sup>4</sup> I led them with human cords, with ropes of kindness. To them I was like one who eases the yoke from their jaws; I bent down to give them food.

<sup>5</sup> Israel will not return to the land of Egypt and Assyria will be his king, because they refused to repent.

<sup>6</sup> A sword will whirl through his cities; it will destroy and devour the bars of his gates, because of their schemes.

<sup>7</sup> My people are bent on turning from Me. Though they call to Him on high, He will not exalt them at all.

<sup>8</sup> How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I surrender you, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? I have had a change of heart; My compassion is stirred!

<sup>9</sup> I will not vent the full fury of My anger; I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim. For I am God and not man, the Holy One among you; I will not come in rage.

<sup>10</sup> They will follow the LORD; He will roar like a lion. When He roars, His children will come trembling from the west.

<sup>11</sup> They will be roused like birds from Egypt and like doves from the land of Assyria. Then I will settle them in their homes. This is the LORD's declaration.



<sup>12</sup> Ephraim surrounds me with lies, the house of Israel, with deceit. Judah still wanders with El and is faithful to holy ones.

**12** <sup>1</sup> Ephraim chases the wind and pursues the east wind. He continually multiplies lies and violence. He makes a covenant with Assyria, and olive oil is carried to Egypt.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD also has a dispute with Judah. He is about to punish Jacob according to his ways; He will repay him based on his actions.

<sup>3</sup> In the womb he grasped his brother's heel, and as an adult he wrestled with God.

<sup>4</sup> Jacob struggled with the Angel and prevailed; he wept and sought His favor. He found him at Bethel, and there He spoke with him.

<sup>5</sup> Yahweh is the God of Hosts; Yahweh is His name.

<sup>6</sup> But you must return to your God. Maintain love and justice, and always put your hope in God.

<sup>7</sup> A merchant loves to extort with dishonest scales in his hands.

<sup>8</sup> But Ephraim says: "How rich I have become; I made it all myself. In all my earnings, no one can find any crime in me that I can be punished for!"

<sup>9</sup> I have been the LORD your God ever since the land of Egypt. I will make you live in tents again, as in the festival days.

<sup>10</sup> I spoke through the prophets and granted many visions; I gave parables through the prophets.

<sup>11</sup> Since Gilead is full of evil, they will certainly come to nothing. They sacrifice bulls in Gilgal; even their altars will be like heaps of rocks on the furrows of a field.

<sup>12</sup> Jacob fled to the land of Aram. Israel worked to earn a wife; he tended flocks for a wife.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD brought Israel from Egypt by a prophet, and Israel was tended by a prophet.

<sup>14</sup> Ephraim has provoked bitter anger, so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him and repay him for his contempt.

**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> Now they continue to sin and make themselves a cast image, idols skillfully made from their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. People say about them, "Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves."

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, they will be like the morning mist, like the early dew that vanishes, like chaff blown from a

threshing floor, or like smoke from a window.

<sup>4</sup> I have been the LORD your God ever since the land of Egypt; you know no God but Me, and no Savior exists besides Me.

<sup>5</sup> I knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought.

<sup>6</sup> When they had pasture, they became satisfied; they were satisfied, and their hearts became proud. Therefore they forgot Me.

<sup>7</sup> So I will be like a lion to them; I will lurk like a leopard on the path.

<sup>8</sup> I will attack them like a bear robbed of her cubs and tear open the rib cage over their hearts. I will devour them there like a lioness, like a wild beast that would rip them open.

<sup>9</sup> I will destroy you, Israel; you have no help but Me.

<sup>10</sup> Where now is your king, that he may save you in all your cities, and the rulers you demanded, saying: Give me a king and leaders?

<sup>11</sup> I give you a king in My anger and take away a king in My wrath.

<sup>12</sup> Ephraim's guilt is preserved; his sin is stored up.

<sup>13</sup> Labor pains come on him. He is not a wise son; when the time comes, he will not be born.

<sup>14</sup> I will ransom them from the power of Sheol. I will redeem them from death. Death, where are your barbs? Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from My eyes.

<sup>15</sup> Although he flourishes among his brothers, an east wind will come, a wind from the LORD rising up from the desert. His water source will fail, and his spring will run dry. The wind will plunder the treasury of every precious item.

<sup>16</sup> Samaria will bear her guilt because she has rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword; their little ones will be dashed to pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

**14** <sup>1</sup> Israel, return to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled in your sin.

<sup>2</sup> Take words of repentance with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him: "Forgive all our sin and accept what is good, so that we may repay You with praise from our lips.

<sup>3</sup> Assyria will not save us, we will not ride on horses, and we will no longer proclaim: Our gods! to the work of our hands. For the fatherless receives compassion in You."

<sup>4</sup> I will heal their apostasy; I will freely love them, for My anger will have turned from him.

<sup>5</sup> I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily and take root like the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> His new branches will spread, and his splendor will be like the olive tree, his fragrance, like the forest of Lebanon.

<sup>7</sup> The people will return and live beneath his shade. They will grow grain and blossom like the vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

<sup>8</sup> Ephraim, why should I have anything more to do with idols? It is I who answer and watch over him. I am like a flourishing pine tree; your fruit comes from Me.

<sup>9</sup> Let whoever is wise understand these things, and whoever is insightful recognize them. For the ways of the LORD are right, and the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.

# Joel

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel:

<sup>2</sup> Hear this, you elders; listen, all you inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your ancestors?

<sup>3</sup> Tell your children about it, and let your children tell their children, and their children the next generation.

<sup>4</sup> What the devouring locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; what the swarming locust has left, the young locust has eaten; and what the young locust has left, the destroying locust has eaten.

<sup>5</sup> Wake up, you drunkards, and weep; wail, all you wine drinkers, because of



the sweet wine, for it has been taken from your mouth.

<sup>6</sup> For a nation has invaded My land, powerful and without number; its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness.

<sup>7</sup> It has devastated My grapevine and splintered My fig tree. It has stripped off its bark and thrown it away; its branches have turned white.

<sup>8</sup> Grieve like a young woman dressed in sackcloth, mourning for the husband of her youth.

<sup>9</sup> Grain and drink offerings have been cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, who are ministers of the LORD, mourn.

<sup>10</sup> The fields are destroyed; the land grieves; indeed, the grain is destroyed; the new wine is dried up; and the olive oil fails.

<sup>11</sup> Be ashamed, you farmers, wail, you vinedressers, over the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field has perished.

<sup>12</sup> The grapevine is dried up, and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the date palm, and the apple--all the trees of the orchard--have withered. Indeed, human joy has dried up.

<sup>13</sup> Dress in sackcloth and lament, you priests; wail, you ministers of the altar. Come and spend the night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God, because grain and drink offerings are withheld from the house of your God.

<sup>14</sup> Announce a sacred fast; proclaim an assembly! Gather the elders and all the residents of the land at the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Woe because of that day! For the Day of the LORD is near and will come as devastation from the Almighty.

<sup>16</sup> Hasn't the food been cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

<sup>17</sup> The seeds lie shriveled in their casings. The storehouses are in ruin, and the granaries are broken down, because the grain has withered away.

<sup>18</sup> How the animals groan! The herds of cattle wander in confusion since they have no pasture. Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.

<sup>19</sup> I call to You, LORD, for fire has consumed the pastures of the wilderness, and flames have devoured all the trees of the countryside.

<sup>20</sup> Even the wild animals cry out to You, for the river beds are dried up, and fire has consumed the pastures of the wilderness.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Blow the horn in Zion; sound the alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the residents of the land tremble, for the

Day of the LORD is coming; in fact, it is near--

<sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and dense overcast, like the dawn spreading over the mountains; a great and strong people appears, such as never existed in ages past and never will again in all the generations to come.

<sup>3</sup> A fire destroys in front of them, and behind them a flame devours. The land in front of them is like the Garden of Eden, but behind them, it is like a desert wasteland; there is no escape from them.

<sup>4</sup> Their appearance is like that of horses, and they gallop like war horses.

<sup>5</sup> They bound on the tops of the mountains. Their sound is like the sound of chariots, like the sound of fiery flames consuming stubble, like a mighty army deployed for war.

<sup>6</sup> Nations writhe in horror before them; all faces turn pale.

<sup>7</sup> They attack as warriors attack ; they scale walls as men of war do . Each goes on his own path, and they do not change their course.

<sup>8</sup> They do not push each other; each man proceeds on his own path. They dodge the missiles, never stopping.

<sup>9</sup> They storm the city; they run on the wall; they climb into the houses; they enter through the windows like thieves.

<sup>10</sup> The earth quakes before them; the sky shakes. The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars cease their shining.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD raises His voice in the presence of His army. His camp is very large; Those who carry out His command are powerful. Indeed, the Day of the LORD is terrible and dreadful--who can endure it?

<sup>12</sup> Even now--this is the LORD's declaration--turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

<sup>13</sup> Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the LORD your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in faithful love, and He relents from sending disaster.

<sup>14</sup> Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave a blessing behind Him, so you can offer grain and wine to the LORD your God.

<sup>15</sup> Blow the horn in Zion! Announce a sacred fast; proclaim an assembly.

<sup>16</sup> Gather the people; sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom, and the bride her honeymoon chamber.

<sup>17</sup> Let the priests, the LORD's ministers, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say: "Have pity on Your people, LORD, and do not make Your inheritance a disgrace, an object of scorn among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD became jealous for His land and spared His people.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD answered His people: Look, I am about to send you grain, new wine, and olive oil. You will be satiated with them, and I will no longer make you a disgrace among the nations.

<sup>20</sup> I will drive the northerner far from you and banish him to a dry and desolate land, his front ranks into the Dead Sea, and his rear guard into the Mediterranean Sea. His stench will rise; yes, his rotten smell will rise, for he has done catastrophic things.

<sup>21</sup> Don't be afraid, land; rejoice and be glad, for the LORD has done great things.

<sup>22</sup> Don't be afraid, wild animals, for the wilderness pastures have turned green, the trees bear their fruit, and the fig tree and grapevine yield their riches.

<sup>23</sup> Children of Zion, rejoice and be glad in the LORD your God, because He gives you the autumn rain for your vindication. He sends showers for you, both autumn and spring rain as before.

<sup>24</sup> The threshing floors will be full of grain, and the vats will overflow with new wine and olive oil.

<sup>25</sup> I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust ate, the young locust, the destroying locust, and the devouring locust--My great army that I sent against you.

<sup>26</sup> You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied. You will praise the name of Yahweh your God, who has dealt



wondrously with you. My people will never again be put to shame.

<sup>27</sup> You will know that I am present in Israel and that I am the LORD your God, and there is no other. My people will never again be put to shame.

<sup>28</sup> After this I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions.

<sup>29</sup> I will even pour out My Spirit on the male and female slaves in those days.

<sup>30</sup> I will display wonders in the heavens and on the earth: blood, fire, and columns of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and awe-inspiring Day of the LORD comes.

<sup>32</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved, for there

will be an escape for those on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as the LORD promised, among the survivors the LORD calls.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Yes, 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 take them to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. I will enter into judgment with them there because of My people, My inheritance Israel. The nations have scattered the Israelites in foreign countries and divided up My land.

<sup>3</sup> They cast lots for My people; they bartered a boy for a prostitute and sold a girl for wine to drink.

<sup>4</sup> And also: Tyre, Sidon, and all the territories of Philistia--what are you to Me? Are you paying Me back or trying to get even with Me? I will quickly bring retribution on your heads.

<sup>5</sup> For you took My silver and gold and carried My finest treasures to your temples.

<sup>6</sup> You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks to remove them far from their own territory.

<sup>7</sup> Look, I am about to rouse them up from the place where you sold them; I will bring retribution on your heads.

<sup>8</sup> I will sell your sons and daughters into the hands of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim this among the nations:  
Prepare for holy war; rouse the warriors;  
let all the men of war advance and attack!

<sup>10</sup> Hammer your plowshares into swords and your pruning knives into spears. Let even the weakling say: I am a warrior.

<sup>11</sup> Come quickly, all you surrounding nations; gather yourselves. Bring down Your warriors there, LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Let the nations be roused and come to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit down to judge all the surrounding nations.

<sup>13</sup> Swing the sickle because the harvest is ripe. Come and trample the grapes because the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because the wickedness of the nations 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 moon will grow dark, and the stars will cease their shining.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD will roar from Zion and raise His voice from Jerusalem; heaven and earth will shake. But the LORD will be a refuge for His people, a stronghold for the Israelites.

<sup>17</sup> Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who dwells in Zion, My holy mountain. Jerusalem will be holy, and foreigners will never overrun it again.

<sup>18</sup> In that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk. All the streams of Judah will flow with water, and a spring will issue from the LORD's house, watering the Valley of Acacias.

<sup>19</sup> Egypt will become desolate, and Edom a desert wasteland, because of the violence done to the people of Judah in whose land they shed innocent blood.

<sup>20</sup> But Judah will be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

<sup>21</sup> I will pardon their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned, for the LORD dwells in Zion.

# Amos

**1** <sup>1</sup> The words of Amos, who was one of the sheep breeders from Tekoa--what he saw regarding Israel in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

<sup>2</sup> He said: The LORD roars from Zion and raises His voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the summit of Carmel withers.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing Damascus for three crimes, even four, because they threshed Gilead with iron sledges.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, I will send fire against Hazael's palace, and it will consume Ben-hadad's citadels.

<sup>5</sup> I will break down the gates of Damascus. I will cut off the ruler from the Valley of Aven, and the one who wields the scepter from Beth-eden. The people of Aram will be exiled to Kir. The LORD has spoken.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing Gaza for three crimes, even four, because they exiled a whole community, handing them over to Edom.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, I will send fire against the walls of Gaza, and it will consume its citadels.

<sup>8</sup> I will cut off the ruler from Ashdod, and the one who wields the scepter from Ashkelon. I will also turn My hand against Ekron, and the remainder of the Philistines will perish. The Lord GOD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing Tyre for three crimes, even four, because they handed over a whole

community of exiles to Edom and broke a treaty of brotherhood.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, I will send fire against the walls of Tyre, and it will consume its citadels.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing Edom for three crimes, even four, because he pursued his brother with the sword. He stifled his compassion, his anger tore at them continually, and he harbored his rage incessantly.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, I will send fire against Teman, and it will consume the citadels of Bozrah.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing the Ammonites for three crimes, even four, because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge their territory.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, I will set fire to the walls of Rabbah, and it will consume its citadels.



There will be shouting on the day of battle and a violent wind on the day of the storm.

<sup>15</sup> Their king and his princes will go into exile together. The LORD has spoken.

**2** <sup>1</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing Moab for three crimes, even four, because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore, I will send fire against Moab, and it will consume the citadels of Kerioth. Moab will die with a tumult, with shouting and the sound of the ram's horn.

<sup>3</sup> I will cut off the judge from the land and kill all its officials with him. The LORD has spoken.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing Judah for three crimes, even four, because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept His

statutes. The lies that their ancestors followed have led them astray.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, I will send fire against Judah, and it will consume the citadels of Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD says: I will not relent from punishing Israel for three crimes, even four, because they sell a righteous person for silver and a needy person for a pair of sandals.

<sup>7</sup> They trample the heads of the poor on the dust of the ground and block the path of the needy. A man and his father have sexual relations with the same girl, profaning My holy name.

<sup>8</sup> They stretch out beside every altar on garments taken as collateral, and they drink in the house of their God wine obtained through fines.

<sup>9</sup> Yet I destroyed the Amorite as Israel advanced; his height was like the cedars, and he was as sturdy as the oaks; I

destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.

<sup>10</sup> And I brought you from the land of Egypt and led you 40 years in the wilderness in order to possess the land of the Amorite.

<sup>11</sup> I raised up some of your sons as prophets and some of your young men as Nazirites. Is this not the case, Israelites? This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>12</sup> But you made the Nazirites drink wine and commanded the prophets: Do not prophesy.

<sup>13</sup> Look, I am about to crush you in your place as a wagon full of sheaves crushes grain .

<sup>14</sup> Escape will fail the swift, the strong one will not prevail by his strength, and the brave will not save his life.

<sup>15</sup> The archer will not stand his ground , the one who is swift of foot will not save

himself, and the one riding a horse will not save his life.

<sup>16</sup> Even the most courageous of the warriors will flee naked on that day--the LORD's declaration.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Listen to this message that the LORD has spoken against you, Israelites, against the entire clan that I brought from the land of Egypt:

<sup>2</sup> I have known only you out of all the clans of the earth; therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities.

<sup>3</sup> Can two walk together without agreeing to meet?

<sup>4</sup> Does a lion roar in the forest when it has no prey? Does a young lion growl from its lair unless it has captured something ?

<sup>5</sup> Does a bird land in a trap on the ground if there is no bait for it? Does a trap spring from the ground when it has caught nothing?

<sup>6</sup> If a ram's horn is blown in a city, aren't people afraid? If a disaster occurs in a city, hasn't the LORD done it?

<sup>7</sup> Indeed, the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing His counsel to His servants the prophets.

<sup>8</sup> A lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who will not prophesy?

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim on the citadels in Ashdod and on the citadels in the land of Egypt: Assemble on the mountains of Samaria and see the great turmoil in the city and the acts of oppression within it.

<sup>10</sup> The people are incapable of doing right--the LORD's declaration--those who store up violence and destruction in their citadels.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, the Lord GOD says: An enemy will surround the land; he will destroy your strongholds and plunder your citadels.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD says: As the shepherd snatches two legs or a piece of an ear from the lion's mouth, so the Israelites who live in Samaria will be rescued with only the corner of a bed or the cushion of a couch.

<sup>13</sup> Listen and testify against the house of Jacob--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD, the God of Hosts.

<sup>14</sup> I will punish the altars of Bethel on the day I punish Israel for its crimes; the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.

<sup>15</sup> I will demolish the winter house and the summer house; the houses inlaid with ivory will be destroyed, and the great houses will come to an end--the LORD's declaration.

**4** <sup>1</sup> Listen to this message, you cows of Bashan who are on the hill of Samaria, women who oppress the poor

and crush the needy, who say to their husbands, "Bring us something to drink."

<sup>2</sup> The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness: Look, the days are coming when you will be taken away with hooks, every last one of you with fishhooks.

<sup>3</sup> You will go through breaches in the wall, each woman straight ahead, and you will be driven along toward Harmon. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>4</sup> Come to Bethel and rebel; rebel even more at Gilgal! Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tenths every three days.

<sup>5</sup> Offer leavened bread as a thank offering, and loudly proclaim your freewill offerings, for that is what you Israelites love to do ! This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>6</sup> I gave you absolutely nothing to eat in all your cities, a shortage of food in

all your communities, yet you did not return to Me--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>7</sup> I also withheld the rain from you while there were still three months until harvest. I sent rain on one city but no rain on another. One field received rain while a field with no rain withered.

<sup>8</sup> Two or three cities staggered to another city to drink water but were not satisfied, yet you did not return to Me--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>9</sup> I struck you with blight and mildew; the locust devoured your many gardens and vineyards, your fig trees and olive trees, yet you did not return to Me--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>10</sup> I sent plagues like those of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, along with your captured horses. I caused the stench of your camp to fill your nostrils, yet you did not return to Me--the LORD's declaration.



<sup>11</sup> I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a burning stick snatched from a fire, yet you did not return to Me--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, Israel, that is what I will do to you, and since I will do that to you, Israel, prepare to meet your God!

<sup>13</sup> He is here: the One who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, the One who makes the dawn out of darkness and strides on the heights of the earth. Yahweh, the God of Hosts, is His name.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Listen to this message that I am singing for you, a lament, house of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> She has fallen; Virgin Israel will never rise again. She lies abandoned on her land, with no one to raise her up.

<sup>3</sup> For the Lord GOD says: The city that marches out a thousand strong will have

only a hundred left, and the one that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left in the house of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD says to the house of Israel: Seek Me and live!

<sup>5</sup> Do not seek Bethel or go to Gilgal or journey to Beer-sheba, for Gilgal will certainly go into exile, and Bethel will come to nothing.

<sup>6</sup> Seek Yahweh and live, or He will spread like fire throughout the house of Joseph; it will consume everything, with no one at Bethel to extinguish it.

<sup>7</sup> Those who turn justice into wormwood throw righteousness to the ground.

<sup>8</sup> The One who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns darkness into dawn and darkens day into night, who summons the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the earth--Yahweh is His name.

<sup>9</sup> He brings destruction on the strong, and it falls on the stronghold.

<sup>10</sup> They hate the one who convicts the guilty at the city gate and despise the one who speaks with integrity.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, because you trample on the poor and exact a grain tax from him, you will never live in the houses of cut stone you have built; you will never drink the wine from the lush vineyards you have planted.

<sup>12</sup> For I know your crimes are many and your sins innumerable. They oppress the righteous, take a bribe, and deprive the poor of justice at the gates.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, the wise person will keep silent at such a time, for the days are evil.

<sup>14</sup> Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and the LORD, the God of Hosts, will be with you, as you have claimed.

<sup>15</sup> Hate evil and love good; establish justice in the gate. Perhaps the LORD, the God of Hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore Yahweh, the God of Hosts, the Lord, says: There will be wailing in all the public squares; they will cry out in anguish in all the streets. The farmer will be called on to mourn, and professional mourners to wail.

<sup>17</sup> There will be wailing in all the vineyards, for I will pass among you. The LORD has spoken.

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who long for the Day of the LORD! What will the Day of the LORD be for you? It will be darkness and not light.

<sup>19</sup> It will be like a man who flees from a lion only to have a bear confront him. He goes home and rests his hand against the wall only to have a snake bite him.

<sup>20</sup> Won't the Day of the LORD be darkness rather than light, even gloom without any brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your feasts! I can't stand the stench of your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even if you offer Me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them ; I will have no regard for your fellowship offerings of fattened cattle.

<sup>23</sup> Take away from Me the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

<sup>24</sup> But let justice flow like water, and righteousness, like an unfailing stream.

<sup>25</sup> "House of Israel, was it sacrifices and grain offerings that you presented to Me during the 40 years in the wilderness?

<sup>26</sup> But you have taken up Sakkuth your king and Kaiwan your star god, images you have made for yourselves.

<sup>27</sup> So I will send you into exile beyond Damascus." Yahweh, the God of Hosts, is His name. He has spoken.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and to those who feel secure on the hill of Samaria--the notable people in this first of the nations, those the house of Israel comes to.

<sup>2</sup> Cross over to Calneh and see; go from there to great Hamath; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Is their territory larger than yours?

<sup>3</sup> You dismiss any thought of the evil day and bring in a reign of violence.

<sup>4</sup> They lie on beds inlaid with ivory, sprawled out on their couches, and dine on lambs from the flock and calves from the stall.

<sup>5</sup> They improvise songs to the sound of the harp and invent their own musical instruments like David.

<sup>6</sup> They drink wine by the bowlful and anoint themselves with the finest oils but do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, they will now go into exile as the first of the captives, and the feasting of those who sprawl out will come to an end.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself -the declaration of Yahweh, the God of Hosts: I loathe Jacob's pride and hate his citadels, so I will hand over the city and everything in it.

<sup>9</sup> And if there are 10 men left in one house, they will die.

<sup>10</sup> A close relative and a burner, will remove his corpse from the house. He will call to someone in the inner recesses of the house, "Any more with you?" That person will reply, "None." Then he will say, "Silence, because Yahweh's name must not be invoked."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD commands: The large house will be smashed to pieces, and the small house to rubble.

<sup>12</sup> Do horses run on rock, or does someone plow it with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood--

<sup>13</sup> you who rejoice over Lo-debar and say, "Didn't we capture Karnaim for ourselves by our own strength?"

<sup>14</sup> But look, I am raising up a nation against you, house of Israel--this is the declaration of the Lord, the GOD of Hosts--and they will oppress you from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of the Arabah.

**7** <sup>1</sup> The Lord GOD showed me this: He was forming a swarm of locusts at the time the spring crop first began to sprout--after the cutting of the king's hay.



<sup>2</sup> When the locusts finished eating the vegetation of the land, I said, "Lord GOD, please forgive! How will Jacob survive since he is so small?"

<sup>3</sup> The LORD relented concerning this. "It will not happen," He said.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD showed me this: The Lord GOD was calling for a judgment by fire. It consumed the great deep and devoured the land.

<sup>5</sup> Then I said, "Lord GOD, please stop! How will Jacob survive since he is so small?"

<sup>6</sup> The LORD relented concerning this. "This will not happen either," said the Lord GOD.

<sup>7</sup> He showed me this: The Lord was standing there by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" I replied, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "I am setting a plumb

line among My people Israel; I will no longer spare them:

<sup>9</sup> Isaac's high places will be deserted, and Israel's sanctuaries will be in ruins; I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with a sword."

<sup>10</sup> Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent word to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you right here in the house of Israel. The land cannot endure all his words,

<sup>11</sup> for Amos has said this: 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go into exile from its homeland.'"

<sup>12</sup> Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Go away, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. Earn your living and give your prophecies there,

<sup>13</sup> but don't ever prophesy at Bethel again, for it is the king's sanctuary and a royal temple."

<sup>14</sup> So Amos answered Amaziah, "I was not a prophet or the son of a prophet; rather, I was a herdsman, and I took care of sycamore figs.

<sup>15</sup> But the LORD took me from following the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'"

<sup>16</sup> Now hear the word of the LORD. You say: Do not prophesy against Israel; do not preach against the house of Isaac.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: Your wife will be a prostitute in the city, your sons and daughters will fall by the sword, and your land will be divided up with a measuring line. You yourself will die on pagan soil, and Israel will certainly go into exile from its homeland.

**8** <sup>1</sup> The Lord GOD showed me this: A basket of summer fruit.

<sup>2</sup> He asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" I replied, "A basket of summer fruit." The LORD said to me, "The end

has come for My people Israel; I will no longer spare them.

<sup>3</sup> In that day the temple songs will become wailing"--the Lord GOD's declaration. "Many dead bodies, thrown everywhere! Silence!"

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy and do away with the poor of the land,

<sup>5</sup> asking, "When will the New Moon be over so we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so we may market wheat? We can reduce the measure while increasing the price and cheat with dishonest scales.

<sup>6</sup> We can buy the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and even sell the wheat husks!"

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: I will never forget all their deeds.

<sup>8</sup> Because of this, won't the land quake and all who dwell in it mourn? All of it

will rise like the Nile; it will surge and then subside like the Nile in Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> And in that day--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--I will make the sun go down at noon; I will darken the land in the daytime.

<sup>10</sup> I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will cause everyone to wear sackcloth and every head to be shaved. I will make that grief like mourning for an only son and its outcome like a bitter day.

<sup>11</sup> Hear this! The days are coming--this is the declaration of the Lord GOD--when I will send a famine through the land: not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> People will stagger from sea to sea and roam from north to east, seeking the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.

<sup>13</sup> In that day the beautiful young women, the young men also, will faint from thirst.

<sup>14</sup> Those who swear by the guilt of Samaria and say, "As your god lives, Dan," or "As the way of Beer-sheba lives"--they will fall, never to rise again.

**9** <sup>1</sup> I saw the LORD standing beside the altar, and He said: Strike the capitals of the pillars so that the thresholds shake; knock them down on the heads of all the people. Then I will kill the rest of them with the sword. None of those who flee will get away; none of their fugitives will escape.

<sup>2</sup> If they dig down to Sheol, from there My hand will 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 track them down and seize them; if they conceal

themselves from My sight on the sea floor, from there I will command the sea serpent to bite them.

<sup>4</sup> And if they are driven by their enemies into captivity, from there I will command the sword to kill them. I will fix My eyes on them for harm and not for good.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord, the GOD of Hosts--He touches the earth; it melts, and all who dwell on it mourn; all of it rises like the Nile and subsides like the Nile of Egypt.

<sup>6</sup> He builds His upper chambers in the heavens and lays the foundation of His vault on the earth. He summons the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth. Yahweh is His name.

<sup>7</sup> Israelites, are you not like the Cushites to Me? This is the LORD's declaration. Didn't I bring Israel from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Arameans from Kir?

<sup>8</sup> Look, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth. However, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob--the LORD's declaration--

<sup>9</sup> for I am about to give the command, and I will shake the house of Israel among all the nations, as one shakes a sieve, but not a pebble will fall to the ground.

<sup>10</sup> All the sinners among My people, who say: Disaster will never overtake or confront us, will die by the sword.

<sup>11</sup> In that day I will restore the fallen booth of David: I will repair its gaps, restore its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old,

<sup>12</sup> so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that are called by My name--this is the LORD's declaration--He will do this.



<sup>13</sup> Hear this! The days are coming--the LORD's declaration--when the plowman will overtake the reaper and the one who treads grapes, the sower of seed. The mountains will drip with sweet wine, and all the hills will flow with it .

<sup>14</sup> I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel. They will rebuild and occupy ruined cities, plant vineyards and drink their wine, make gardens and eat their produce.

<sup>15</sup> I will plant them on their land, and they will never again be uprooted from the land I have given them. Yahweh your God has spoken.

# Obadiah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Lord GOD has said about Edom: We have heard a message from the LORD; an envoy has been sent among the nations: Rise up, and let us go to war against her.

<sup>2</sup> Look, I will make you insignificant among the nations; you will be deeply despised.

<sup>3</sup> Your presumptuous heart has deceived you, you who live in clefts of the rock in your home on the heights, who say to yourself: Who can bring me down to the ground?

<sup>4</sup> Though you seem to soar like an eagle and make your nest among the stars, even from there I will bring you down. This is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>5</sup> If thieves came to you, if marauders by night--how ravaged you will be!--wouldn't they steal only what they wanted? If grape pickers came to you, wouldn't they leave some grapes?

<sup>6</sup> How Esau will be pillaged, his hidden treasures searched out!

<sup>7</sup> Everyone who has a treaty with you will drive you to the border; everyone at peace with you will deceive and conquer you. Those who eat your bread will set a trap for you. He will be unaware of it.

<sup>8</sup> In that day--the LORD's declaration--will I not eliminate the wise ones of Edom and those who understand from the hill country of Esau?

<sup>9</sup> Teman, your warriors will be terrified so that everyone from the hill country of Esau will be destroyed by slaughter.

<sup>10</sup> You will be covered with shame and destroyed forever because of violence done to your brother Jacob.

<sup>11</sup> On the day you stood aloof, on the day strangers captured his wealth, while foreigners entered his gate and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were just like one of them.

<sup>12</sup> Do not gloat over your brother in the day of his calamity; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction; do not boastfully mock in the day of distress.

<sup>13</sup> Do not enter the gate of My people in the day of their disaster. Yes, you--do not gloat over their misery in the day of their disaster and do not appropriate their possessions in the day of their disaster.

<sup>14</sup> Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off their fugitives, and do not hand over their survivors in the day of distress.

<sup>15</sup> For the Day of the LORD is near, against all the nations. As you have done, so it will be done to you; what you deserve will return on your own head.

<sup>16</sup> For as you have drunk on My holy mountain, so all the nations will drink continually. They will drink and gulp down and be as though they had never been.

<sup>17</sup> But there will be a deliverance on Mount Zion, and it will be holy; the house of Jacob will dispossess those who dispossessed them.

<sup>18</sup> Then the house of Jacob will be a blazing fire, and the house of Joseph a burning flame, but the house of Esau will be stubble; they will set them on fire and consume them. Therefore no survivor will remain of the house of Esau, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>19</sup> People from the Negev will possess the hill country of Esau; those from the Judean foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will possess the territories of Ephraim and Samaria, while Benjamin will possess Gilead.

<sup>20</sup> The exiles of the Israelites who are in Halah who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the cities of the Negev.

<sup>21</sup> Saviors will ascend Mount Zion to rule over the hill country of Esau, but the kingdom will be the LORD's.

# Jonah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

<sup>2</sup> "Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because their wickedness has confronted Me."

<sup>3</sup> However, Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the LORD's presence. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, from the LORD's presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD hurled a violent wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart.

<sup>5</sup> The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his god. They threw the ship's cargo into the sea to lighten the load.

Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep.

<sup>6</sup> The captain approached him and said, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up! Call to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won't perish."

<sup>7</sup> "Come on!" the sailors said to each other. "Let's cast lots. Then we will know who is to blame for this trouble we're in." So they cast lots, and the lot singled out Jonah.

<sup>8</sup> Then they said to him, "Tell us who is to blame for this trouble we're in. What is your business and where are you from? What is your country and what people are you from?"

<sup>9</sup> He answered them, "I am a Hebrew. I worship Yahweh, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land."



<sup>10</sup> Then the men were even more afraid and said to him, "What is this you've done?" For the men knew he was fleeing from the LORD's presence, because he had told them.

<sup>11</sup> So they said to him, "What should we do to you to calm this sea that's against us?" For the sea was getting worse and worse.

<sup>12</sup> He answered them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea so it may quiet down for you, for I know that I'm to blame for this violent storm that is against you."

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not because the sea was raging against them more and more.

<sup>14</sup> So they called out to the LORD: "Please, Yahweh, don't let us perish because of this man's life, and don't

charge us with innocent blood! For You, Yahweh, have done just as You pleased."

<sup>15</sup> Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

<sup>16</sup> The men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

<sup>17</sup> Then the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the fish three days and three nights.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish:

<sup>2</sup> I called to the LORD in my distress, and He answered me. I cried out for help in the belly of Sheol; You heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup> You threw me into the depths, into the heart of the seas, and the current overcame me. All Your breakers and Your billows swept over me.

<sup>4</sup> But I said: I have been banished from Your sight, yet I will look once more toward Your holy temple.

<sup>5</sup> The waters engulfed me up to the neck; the watery depths overcame me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup> I sank to the foundations of the mountains; the earth with its prison bars closed behind me forever! But You raised my life from the Pit, LORD my God!

<sup>7</sup> As my life was fading away, I remembered the LORD. My prayer came to You, to Your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup> Those who cling to worthless idols forsake faithful love,

<sup>9</sup> but as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation is from the LORD!

<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

<sup>2</sup> "Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you."

<sup>3</sup> So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the LORD's command. Now Nineveh was an extremely large city, a three-day walk.

<sup>4</sup> Jonah set out on the first day of his walk in the city and proclaimed, "In 40 days Nineveh will be overthrown!"

<sup>5</sup> The men of Nineveh believed in God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth--from the greatest of them to the least.

<sup>6</sup> When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

<sup>7</sup> Then he issued a decree in Nineveh: By order of the king and his nobles: No

man or beast, herd or flock, is to taste anything at all. They must not eat or drink water.

<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth, and everyone must call out earnestly to God. Each must turn from his evil ways and from the violence he is doing.

<sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may turn and relent; He may turn from His burning anger so that we will not perish.

<sup>10</sup> Then God saw their actions--that they had turned from their evil ways--so God relented from the disaster He had threatened to do to them. And He did not do it.

**4** <sup>1</sup> But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious.

<sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD: "Please, LORD, isn't this what I said while I was still in my own country? That's why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that You

are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to become angry, rich in faithful love, and One who relents from sending disaster.

<sup>3</sup> And now, LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>4</sup> The LORD asked, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup> Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city.

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD God appointed a plant, and it grew up to provide shade over Jonah's head to ease his discomfort. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant.

<sup>7</sup> When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered.

<sup>8</sup> As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die. He said, "It's better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> Then God asked Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "Yes," he replied. "It is right. I'm angry enough to die!"

<sup>10</sup> So the LORD said, "You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night.

<sup>11</sup> Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"

# Micah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Moreshite--what he saw regarding Samaria and Jerusalem in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> Listen, all you peoples; pay attention, earth and everyone in it! The Lord GOD will be a witness against you, the Lord, from His holy temple.

<sup>3</sup> Look, the LORD is leaving His place and coming down to trample the heights of the earth.

<sup>4</sup> The mountains will melt beneath Him, and the valleys will split apart, like wax near a fire, like water cascading down a mountainside.

<sup>5</sup> All this will happen because of Jacob's rebellion and the sins of the house of



Israel. What is the rebellion of Jacob? Isn't it Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Isn't it Jerusalem?

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the countryside, a planting area for a vineyard. I will roll her stones into the valley and expose her foundations.

<sup>7</sup> All her carved images will be smashed to pieces, all her wages will be burned in the fire, and I will destroy all her idols. Since she collected the wages of a prostitute, they will be used again for a prostitute.

<sup>8</sup> Because of this I will lament and wail; I will walk barefoot and naked. I will howl like the jackals and mourn like ostriches.

<sup>9</sup> For her wound is incurable and has reached even Judah; it has approached the gate of my people, as far as Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> Don't announce it in Gath, don't weep at all. In Beth-leaphrah roll in the dust.

<sup>11</sup> Depart in shameful nakedness, you residents of Shaphir; the residents of Zaanán will not come out. Beth-ezel is lamenting; its support is taken from you.

<sup>12</sup> Though the residents of Maroth anxiously wait for something good, calamity has come from the LORD to the gate of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> Harness the horses to the chariot, you residents of Lachish. This was the beginning of sin for Daughter Zion, because Israel's acts of rebellion can be traced to you.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, send farewell gifts to Moresheth-gath; the houses of Achzib are a deception to the kings of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> I will again bring a conqueror against you who live in Mareshah. The nobility of Israel will come to Adullam.

<sup>16</sup> Shave yourselves bald and cut off your hair in sorrow for your precious children; make yourselves as bald as an eagle, for they have been taken from you into exile.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Woe to those who dream up wickedness and prepare evil plans on their beds! At morning light they accomplish it because the power is in their hands.

<sup>2</sup> They covet fields and seize them; they also take houses. They deprive a man of his home, a person of his inheritance.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the LORD says: I am now planning a disaster against this nation; you cannot free your necks from it. Then you will not walk so proudly because it will be an evil time.

<sup>4</sup> In that day one will take up a taunt against you, and lament mournfully, saying: We are totally ruined! He measures out the allotted land of my

people. How He removes it from me! He allots our fields to traitors.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, there will be no one in the assembly of the LORD to divide the land by casting lots.

<sup>6</sup> "Stop your preaching," they preach. "They should not preach these things; shame will not overtake us."

<sup>7</sup> House of Jacob, should it be asked: "Is the Spirit of the LORD impatient? Are these the things He does?" Don't My words bring good to the one who walks uprightly?

<sup>8</sup> But recently My people have risen up like an enemy: You strip off the splendid robe from those who are passing through confidently, like those returning from war.

<sup>9</sup> You force the women of My people out of their comfortable homes, and you take My blessing from their children forever.

<sup>10</sup> Get up and leave, for this is not your place of rest, because defilement brings destruction--a grievous destruction!

<sup>11</sup> If a man of spirit comes and invents lies: "I will preach to you about wine and beer," he would be just the preacher for this people!

<sup>12</sup> I will indeed gather all of you, Jacob; I will collect the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in the middle of its fold. It will be noisy with people.

<sup>13</sup> One who breaks open the way will advance before them; they will break out, pass through the gate, and leave by it. Their King will pass through before them, the LORD as their leader.

**3**<sup>1</sup> Then I said: "Now listen, leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Aren't you supposed to know what is just?"

<sup>2</sup> You hate good and love evil. You tear off the skin of people and strip their flesh from their bones.

<sup>3</sup> You eat the flesh of my people after you strip their skin from them and break their bones. You chop them up like flesh for the cooking pot, like meat in a caldron."

<sup>4</sup> Then they will cry out to the LORD, but He will not answer them. He will hide His face from them at that time because of the crimes they have committed.

<sup>5</sup> This is what the LORD says concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who proclaim peace when they have food to sink their teeth into but declare war against the one who puts nothing in their mouths.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, it will be night for you--without visions; it will grow dark for you--without divination. The sun will set

on these prophets, and the daylight will turn black over them.

<sup>7</sup> Then the seers will be ashamed and the diviners disappointed. They will all cover their mouths because there will be no answer from God.

<sup>8</sup> But as for me, I am filled with power by the Spirit of the LORD, with justice and courage, to proclaim to Jacob his rebellion and to Israel his sin.

<sup>9</sup> Listen to this, leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert everything that is right,

<sup>10</sup> who build Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with injustice.

<sup>11</sup> Her leaders issue rulings for a bribe, her priests teach for payment, and her prophets practice divination for money. Yet they lean on the LORD, saying, "Isn't the LORD among us? No calamity will overtake us."

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become ruins, and the hill of the temple mount will be a thicket.

**4** <sup>1</sup> In the last days the mountain of the LORD's house will be established at the top of the mountains and will be raised above the hills. Peoples will stream to it,

<sup>2</sup> and many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us about His ways so we may walk in His paths." For instruction will go out of Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He will settle disputes among many peoples and provide arbitration for strong nations that are far away. They will beat their swords into plows, and their spears into pruning knives. Nation



will not take up the sword against nation,  
and they will never again train for war.

<sup>4</sup> But each man will sit under his  
grapevine and under his fig tree with no  
one to frighten him . For the mouth of  
the LORD of Hosts has promised this .

<sup>5</sup> Though all the peoples each walk in  
the name of their gods, we will walk in  
the name of Yahweh our God forever  
and ever.

<sup>6</sup> On that day--this is the LORD's  
declaration--I will assemble the lame  
and gather the scattered, those I have  
injured.

<sup>7</sup> I will make the lame into a remnant,  
those far removed into a strong nation.  
Then the LORD will rule over them  
in Mount Zion from this time on and  
forever.

<sup>8</sup> And you, watchtower for the flock,  
fortified hill of Daughter Zion, the former

rule will come to you, sovereignty will come to Daughter Jerusalem.

<sup>9</sup> Now, why are you shouting loudly? Is there no king with you? Has your counselor perished, so that anguish grips you like a woman in labor?

<sup>10</sup> Writhe and cry out, Daughter Zion, like a woman in labor. For now you will leave the city and camp in the open fields. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the power of your enemies!

<sup>11</sup> Many nations have now assembled against you; they say, "Let her be defiled, and let us feast our eyes on Zion."

<sup>12</sup> But they do not know the LORD's intentions or understand His plan, that He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

<sup>13</sup> Rise and thresh, Daughter Zion, for I will make your horns iron and your

hooves bronze, so you can crush many peoples. Then you will devote what they plundered to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Now daughter who is under attack, you slash yourself in grief ; a siege is set against us! They are striking the judge of Israel on the cheek with a rod.

<sup>2</sup> Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; One will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from eternity.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, He will abandon them until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers will return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of Yahweh, in the majestic name of Yahweh His God. They will live securely, for then His greatness will extend to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> There will be peace. When Assyria invades our land, when it marches against our fortresses, we will raise against it seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men.

<sup>6</sup> They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with a drawn blade. So He will rescue us from Assyria when it invades our land, when it marches against our territory.

<sup>7</sup> Then the remnant of Jacob will be among many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for anyone or linger for mankind.

<sup>8</sup> Then the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, among many peoples, like a lion among animals of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which tramples and tears as it passes through, and there is no one to rescue them .

<sup>9</sup> Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries, and all your enemies will be destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> In that day--the LORD's declaration--I will remove your horses from you and wreck your chariots.

<sup>11</sup> I will remove the cities of your land and tear down all your fortresses.

<sup>12</sup> I will remove sorceries from your hands, and you will not have any more fortune-tellers.

<sup>13</sup> I will remove your carved images and sacred pillars from you, so that you will not bow down again to the work of your hands.

<sup>14</sup> I will pull up the Asherah poles from among you and demolish your cities.

<sup>15</sup> I will take vengeance in anger and wrath against the nations that have not obeyed Me .

**6** <sup>1</sup> Now listen to what the LORD is saying: Rise, plead your case before

the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Listen to the LORD's lawsuit, you mountains and enduring foundations of the earth, because the LORD has a case against His people, and He will argue it against Israel.

<sup>3</sup> My people, what have I done to you, or how have I wearied you? Testify against Me!

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from that place of slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam ahead of you.

<sup>5</sup> My people, remember what Balak king of Moab proposed, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, so that you may acknowledge the LORD's righteous acts.

<sup>6</sup> What should I bring before the LORD when I come to bow before God on

high? Should I come before Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves?

<sup>7</sup> Would the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousand streams of oil? Should I give my firstborn for my transgression, the child of my body for my own sin?

<sup>8</sup> He has told you men what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: Only to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD calls out to the city (and it is wise to fear Your name): "Pay attention to the rod and the One who ordained it.

<sup>10</sup> Are there still the treasures of wickedness and the accursed short measure in the house of the wicked?

<sup>11</sup> Can I excuse wicked scales or bags of deceptive weights?

<sup>12</sup> For the wealthy of the city are full of violence, and its residents speak lies; the tongues in their mouths are deceitful.

<sup>13</sup> "As a result, I have begun to strike you severely, bringing desolation because of your sins.

<sup>14</sup> You will eat but not be satisfied, for there will be hunger within you. What you acquire, you cannot save, and what you do save, I will give to the sword.

<sup>15</sup> You will sow but not reap; you will press olives but not anoint yourself with oil; and you will tread grapes but not drink the wine.

<sup>16</sup> The statutes of Omri and all the practices of Ahab's house have been observed; you have followed their policies. Therefore, I will make you a desolate place and the city's residents an object of contempt; you will bear the scorn of My people."



**7**<sup>1</sup> How sad for me! For I am like one who--when the summer fruit has been gathered after the gleaning of the grape harvest--finds no grape cluster to eat, no early fig, which I crave.

<sup>2</sup> Godly people have vanished from the land; there is no one upright among the people. All of them wait in ambush to shed blood; they hunt each other with a net.

<sup>3</sup> Both hands are good at accomplishing evil: the official and the judge demand a bribe; when the powerful man communicates his evil desire, they plot it together.

<sup>4</sup> The best of them is like a brier; the most upright is worse than a hedge of thorns. The day of your watchmen, the day of your punishment, is coming; at this time their panic is here.

<sup>5</sup> Do not rely on a friend; don't trust in a close companion. Seal your mouth from the woman who lies in your arms.

<sup>6</sup> For a son considers his father a fool, a daughter opposes her mother, and a daughter-in-law is against her mother-in-law; a person's enemies are the people in his own home.

<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> Do not rejoice over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will stand up; though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light.

<sup>9</sup> Because I have sinned against Him, I must endure the LORD's rage until He argues my case and establishes justice for me. He will bring me into the light; I will see His salvation.

<sup>10</sup> Then my enemy will see, and she will be covered with shame, the one

who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look at her in triumph; at that time she will be trampled like mud in the streets.

<sup>11</sup> A day will come for rebuilding your walls; on that day your boundary will be extended.

<sup>12</sup> On that day people will come to you from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, even from Egypt to the Euphrates River and from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.

<sup>13</sup> Then the earth will become a wasteland because of its inhabitants, and as a result of their actions.

<sup>14</sup> Shepherd Your people with Your staff, the flock that is Your possession. They live alone in a scrubland, surrounded by pastures. Let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in ancient times.

<sup>15</sup> I will show them wondrous deeds as in the days of your exodus from the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> Nations will see and be ashamed of all their power. They will put their hands over their mouths, and their ears will become deaf.

<sup>17</sup> They will lick the dust like a snake; they will come trembling out of their hiding places like reptiles slithering on the ground. They will tremble before the LORD our God; they will stand in awe of You.

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like You, removing iniquity and passing over rebellion for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not hold on to His anger forever, because He delights in faithful love.

<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us; He will vanquish our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

<sup>20</sup> You will show loyalty to Jacob and faithful love to Abraham, as You swore to our fathers from days long ago.

# Nahum

**1** <sup>1</sup> The oracle concerning Nineveh.  
The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is fierce in wrath. The LORD takes vengeance against His foes; He is furious with His enemies.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will never leave the guilty unpunished. His path is in the whirlwind and storm, and clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

<sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea so that it dries up, and He makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither; even the flower of Lebanon withers.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before Him, and the hills melt; the earth trembles at His presence--the world and all who live in it.

<sup>6</sup> Who can withstand His indignation? Who can endure His burning anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, even rocks are shattered before Him.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is good, a stronghold in a day of distress; He cares for those who take refuge in Him.

<sup>8</sup> But He will completely destroy Nineveh with an overwhelming flood, and He will chase His enemies into darkness.

<sup>9</sup> Whatever you plot against the LORD, He will bring it to complete destruction; oppression will not rise up a second time.

<sup>10</sup> For they will be consumed like entangled thorns, like a drunkard's drink, and like straw that is fully dry.

<sup>11</sup> One has gone out from Nineveh, who plots evil against the LORD, and is a wicked counselor.

<sup>12</sup> This is what the LORD says: Though they are strong and numerous, they will still be mowed down, and he will pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no longer.

<sup>13</sup> For I will now break off his yoke from you and tear off your shackles.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD has issued an order concerning you: There will be no offspring to carry on your name. I will eliminate the carved idol and cast image from the house of your gods; I will prepare your grave, for you are contemptible.

<sup>15</sup> Look to the mountains--the feet of one bringing good news and proclaiming peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah; fulfill your vows. For the wicked one will



never again march through you; he will be entirely wiped out.

**2** <sup>1</sup> One who scatters is coming up against you. Man the fortifications! Watch the road! Brace yourself! Summon all your strength!

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD will restore the majesty of Jacob, yes, the majesty of Israel, though ravagers have ravaged them and ruined their vine branches.

<sup>3</sup> The shields of his warriors are dyed red; the valiant men are dressed in scarlet. The fittings of the chariot flash like fire on the day of its battle preparations, and the spears are brandished.

<sup>4</sup> The chariots dash madly through the streets; they rush around in the plazas. They look like torches; they dart back and forth like lightning.

<sup>5</sup> He gives orders to his officers; they stumble as they advance. They race to its wall; the protective shield is set in place.

<sup>6</sup> The river gates are opened, and the palace erodes away.

<sup>7</sup> Beauty is stripped, she is carried away; her ladies-in-waiting moan like the sound of doves, and beat their breasts.

<sup>8</sup> Nineveh has been like a pool of water from her first days, but they are fleeing. "Stop! Stop!" they cry, but no one turns back.

<sup>9</sup> "Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!" There is no end to the treasure, an abundance of every precious thing.

<sup>10</sup> Desolation, decimation, devastation! Hearts melt, knees tremble, loins shake, every face grows pale!

<sup>11</sup> Where is the lions' lair, or the feeding ground of the young lions, where the lion and lioness prowled, and the lion's

cub, with nothing to frighten them away?

<sup>12</sup> The lion mauled whatever its cubs needed and strangled prey for its lionesses. It filled up its dens with the kill, and its lairs with mauled prey.

<sup>13</sup> Beware, I am against you--the declaration of the Lord of Hosts. I will make your chariots go up in smoke and the sword will devour your young lions. I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the sound of your messengers will never be heard again.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Woe to the city of blood, totally deceitful, full of plunder, never without prey.

<sup>2</sup> The crack of the whip and rumble of the wheel, galloping horse and jolting chariot!

<sup>3</sup> Charging horseman, flashing sword, shining spear; heaps of slain, mounds of

corpses, dead bodies without end--they stumble over their dead.

<sup>4</sup> Because of the continual prostitution of the prostitute, the attractive mistress of sorcery, who betrays nations by her prostitution and clans by her witchcraft,

<sup>5</sup> I am against you--the declaration of the Lord of Hosts. I will lift your skirts over your face and display your nakedness to nations, your shame to kingdoms.

<sup>6</sup> I will throw filth on you and treat you with contempt; I will make a spectacle of you.

<sup>7</sup> Then all who see you will recoil from you, saying: Nineveh is devastated; who will show sympathy to her? Where can I find anyone to comfort you?

<sup>8</sup> Are you better than Thebes that sat along the Nile with water surrounding her, whose rampart was the sea, the river her wall?

<sup>9</sup> Cush and Egypt were her endless source of strength; Put and Libya were among her allies.

<sup>10</sup> Yet she became an exile; she went into captivity. Her children were also dashed to pieces at the head of every street. They cast lots for her dignitaries, and all her nobles were bound in chains.

<sup>11</sup> You also will become drunk; you will hide yourself. You also will seek refuge from the enemy.

<sup>12</sup> All your fortresses are fig trees with figs that ripened first; when shaken, they fall--right into the mouth of the eater!

<sup>13</sup> Look, your troops are women among you; the gates of your land are wide open to your enemies. Fire will devour the bars of your gates .

<sup>14</sup> Draw water for the siege; strengthen your fortresses. Step into the clay and tread the mortar; take hold of the brick-mold!

<sup>15</sup> The fire will devour you there; the sword will cut you down. It will devour you like the young locust. Multiply yourselves like the young locust, multiply like the swarming locust!

<sup>16</sup> You have made your merchants more numerous than the stars of the sky. The young locust strips the land and flies away.

<sup>17</sup> Your court officials are like the swarming locust, and your scribes like clouds of locusts, which settle on the walls on a cold day; when the sun rises, they take off, and no one knows where they are.

<sup>18</sup> King of Assyria, your shepherds slumber; your officers sleep. Your people are scattered across the mountains with no one to gather them together.

<sup>19</sup> There is no remedy for your injury; your wound is severe. All who hear the news about you will clap their

hands because of you, for who has not  
experienced your constant cruelty?

# Habakkuk

**1** <sup>1</sup> The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

<sup>2</sup> How long, LORD, must I call for help and You do not listen, or cry out to You about violence and You do not save?

<sup>3</sup> Why do You force me to look at injustice? Why do You tolerate wrongdoing? Oppression and violence are right in front of me. Strife is ongoing, and conflict escalates.

<sup>4</sup> This is why the law is ineffective and justice never emerges. For the wicked restrict the righteous; therefore, justice comes out perverted.

<sup>5</sup> Look at the nations and observe--be utterly astounded! For something is taking place in your days that you will not believe when you hear about it.



<sup>6</sup> Look! I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter, impetuous nation that marches across the earth's open spaces to seize territories not its own.

<sup>7</sup> They are fierce and terrifying; their views of justice and sovereignty stem from themselves.

<sup>8</sup> Their horses are swifter than leopards and more fierce than wolves of the night. Their horsemen charge ahead; their horsemen come from distant lands . They fly like an eagle, swooping to devour.

<sup>9</sup> All of them come to do violence; their faces are set in determination. They gather prisoners like sand.

<sup>10</sup> They mock kings, and rulers are a joke to them. They laugh at every fortress and build siege ramps to capture it.

<sup>11</sup> Then they sweep by like the wind and pass through. They are guilty; their strength is their god.

<sup>12</sup> Are You not from eternity, Yahweh my God? My Holy One, You will not die. LORD, You appointed them to execute judgment; my Rock, You destined them to punish us .

<sup>13</sup> Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, and You cannot tolerate wrongdoing. So why do You tolerate those who are treacherous? Why are You silent while one who is wicked swallows up one who is more righteous than himself?

<sup>14</sup> You have made mankind like the fish of the sea, like marine creatures that have no ruler.

<sup>15</sup> The Chaldeans pull them all up with a hook, catch them in their dragnet, and gather them in their fishing net; that is why they are glad and rejoice.

<sup>16</sup> That is why they sacrifice to their dragnet and burn incense to their fishing net, for by these things their portion is rich and their food plentiful.

<sup>17</sup> Will they therefore empty their net and continually slaughter nations without mercy?

**2** <sup>1</sup> I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the lookout tower. I will watch to see what He will say to me and what I should reply about my complaint.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD answered me: Write down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it.

<sup>3</sup> For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it testifies about the end and will not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late.

<sup>4</sup> Look, his ego is inflated; he is without integrity. But the righteous one will live by his faith.

<sup>5</sup> Moreover, wine betrays; an arrogant man is never at rest. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and like Death he is never satisfied. He gathers all the nations to himself; he collects all the peoples for himself.

<sup>6</sup> Won't all of these take up a taunt against him, with mockery and riddles about him? They will say: Woe to him who amasses what is not his--how much longer?--and loads himself with goods taken in pledge.

<sup>7</sup> Won't your creditors suddenly arise, and those who disturb you wake up? Then you will become spoil for them.

<sup>8</sup> Since you have plundered many nations, all the peoples who remain will plunder you--because of human bloodshed and violence against lands, cities, and all who live in them.

<sup>9</sup> Woe to him who unjustly gains wealth for his house to place his nest on high, to escape from the reach of disaster!

<sup>10</sup> You have planned shame for your house by wiping out many peoples and sinning against your own self.

<sup>11</sup> For the stones will cry out from the wall, and the rafters will answer them from the woodwork.

<sup>12</sup> Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and founds a town with injustice!

<sup>13</sup> Is it not from the LORD of Hosts, that the peoples labor only to fuel the fire and countries exhaust themselves for nothing?

<sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD's glory, as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>15</sup> Woe to him who gives his neighbors drink, pouring out your wrath and even

making them drunk, in order to look at their nakedness!

<sup>16</sup> You will be filled with disgrace instead of glory. You also--drink, and expose your uncircumcision! The cup in the LORD's right hand will come around to you, and utter disgrace will cover your glory.

<sup>17</sup> For your violence against Lebanon will overwhelm you; the destruction of animals will terrify you, because of your human bloodshed and violence against lands, cities, and all who live in them.

<sup>18</sup> What use is a carved idol after its craftsman carves it? It is only a cast image, a teacher of lies. For the one who crafts its shape trusts in it and makes idols that cannot speak.

<sup>19</sup> Woe to him who says to wood: Wake up! or to mute stone: Come alive! Can it teach? Look! It may be plated with gold

and silver, yet there is no breath in it at all.

<sup>20</sup> But the LORD is in His holy temple; let everyone on earth be silent in His presence.

**3** <sup>1</sup> A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.  
According to Shigionoth.

<sup>2</sup> LORD, I have heard the report about You; LORD, I stand in awe of Your deeds. Revive Your work in these years; make it known in these years. In Your wrath remember mercy!

<sup>3</sup> God comes from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, and the earth is full of His praise.

<sup>4</sup> His brilliance is like light; rays are flashing from His hand. This is where His power is hidden.

<sup>5</sup> Plague goes before Him, and pestilence follows in His steps.

<sup>6</sup> He stands and shakes the earth;  
He looks and startles the nations. The  
age-old mountains break apart; the  
ancient hills sink down. His pathways are  
ancient.

<sup>7</sup> I see the tents of Cushan in distress;  
the tent curtains of the land of Midian  
tremble.

<sup>8</sup> Are You angry at the rivers, LORD? Is  
Your wrath against the rivers? Or is Your  
rage against the sea when You ride on  
Your horses, Your victorious chariot?

<sup>9</sup> You took the sheath from Your bow;  
the arrows are ready to be used with  
an oath. Selah. You split the earth with  
rivers.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains see You and shudder;  
a downpour of water sweeps by. The  
deep roars with its voice and lifts its  
waves high.

<sup>11</sup> Sun and moon stand still in their lofty  
residence, at the flash of Your flying



arrows, at the brightness of Your shining spear.

<sup>12</sup> You march across the earth with indignation; You trample down the nations in wrath.

<sup>13</sup> You come out to save Your people, to save Your anointed. You crush the leader of the house of the wicked and strip him from foot to neck. Selah.

<sup>14</sup> You pierce his head with his own spears; his warriors storm out to scatter us, gloating as if ready to secretly devour the weak.

<sup>15</sup> You tread the sea with Your horses, stirring up the great waters.

<sup>16</sup> I heard, and I trembled within; my lips quivered at the sound. Rottenness entered my bones; I trembled where I stood. Now I must quietly wait for the day of distress to come against the people invading us.

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

<sup>18</sup> yet I will triumph in the LORD; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!

<sup>19</sup> Yahweh my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights! For the choir director: on stringed instruments.

# Zephaniah

**1** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> I will completely sweep away everything from the face of the earth--this is the LORD's declaration.

<sup>3</sup> I will sweep away man and animal; I will sweep away the birds of the sky and the fish of the sea, and the ruins along with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>4</sup> I will stretch out My hand against Judah and against all the residents of Jerusalem. I will cut off from this place

every vestige of Baal, the names of the pagan priests along with the priests;

<sup>5</sup> those who bow in worship on the rooftops to the heavenly host; those who bow and pledge loyalty to the LORD but also pledge loyalty to Milcom;

<sup>6</sup> and those who turn back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of Him.

<sup>7</sup> Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD, for the Day of the LORD is near. Indeed, the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has consecrated His guests.

<sup>8</sup> On the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the officials, the king's sons, and all who are dressed in foreign clothing.

<sup>9</sup> On that day I will punish all who skip over the threshold, who fill their master's house with violence and deceit.

<sup>10</sup> On that day--the LORD's declaration--there will be an outcry from the Fish

Gate, a wailing from the Second District, and a loud crashing from the hills.

<sup>11</sup> Wail, you residents of the Hollow, for all the merchants will be silenced; all those loaded with silver will be cut off.

<sup>12</sup> And at that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish the men who settle down comfortably, who say to themselves: The LORD will not do good or evil.

<sup>13</sup> Their wealth will become plunder and their houses a ruin. They will build houses but never live in them , plant vineyards but never drink their wine.

<sup>14</sup> The great Day of the LORD is near, near and rapidly approaching. Listen, the Day of the LORD--there the warrior's cry is bitter.

<sup>15</sup> That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness,

<sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities, and against the high corner towers.

<sup>17</sup> I will bring distress on mankind, and they will walk like the blind because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup> Their silver and their gold will not be able to rescue them on the day of the LORD's wrath. The whole earth will be consumed by the fire of His jealousy. For He will make a complete, yes, a horrifying end of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**2** <sup>1</sup> Gather yourselves together; gather together, undesirable nation,

<sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect and the day passes like chaff, before the burning of the LORD's anger overtakes you, before the day of the LORD's anger overtakes you.

<sup>3</sup> Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who carry out what He commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be concealed on the day of the LORD's anger.

<sup>4</sup> For Gaza will be abandoned, and Ashkelon will become a ruin. Ashdod will be driven out at noon, and Ekron will be uprooted.

<sup>5</sup> Woe, inhabitants of the seacoast, nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines: I will destroy you until there is no one left.

<sup>6</sup> The seacoast will become pasturelands with caves for shepherds and folds for sheep.

<sup>7</sup> The coastland will belong to the remnant of the house of Judah; they will find pasture there. They will lie down in the evening among the houses of Ashkelon, for the LORD their God

will return to them and restore their fortunes.

<sup>8</sup> I have heard the taunting of Moab and the insults of the Ammonites, who have taunted My people and threatened their territory.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, as I live--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel--Moab will be like Sodom and the Ammonites like Gomorrah--a place overgrown with weeds, a salt pit, and a perpetual wasteland. The remnant of My people will plunder them; the remainder of My nation will dispossess them.

<sup>10</sup> This is what they get for their pride, because they have taunted and acted arrogantly against the people of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will be terrifying to them when He starves all the gods of the earth. Then all the distant coastlands of



the nations will bow in worship to Him, each in its own place.

<sup>12</sup> You Cushites will also be slain by My sword.

<sup>13</sup> He will also stretch out His hand against the north and destroy Assyria; He will make Nineveh a desolate ruin, dry as the desert.

<sup>14</sup> Herds will lie down in the middle of it, every kind of wild animal. Both the desert owl and the screech owl will roost in the capitals of its pillars. Their calls will sound from the window, but devastation will be on the threshold, for He will expose the cedar work.

<sup>15</sup> This is the self-assured city that lives in security, that thinks to herself: I am, and there is no one besides me. What a desolation she has become, a place for wild animals to lie down! Everyone who passes by her jeers and shakes his fist.

**3** <sup>1</sup> Woe to the city that is rebellious and defiled, the oppressive city!

<sup>2</sup> She has not obeyed; she has not accepted discipline. She has not trusted in the LORD; she has not drawn near to her God.

<sup>3</sup> The princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are wolves of the night, which leave nothing for the morning.

<sup>4</sup> Her prophets are reckless--treacherous men. Her priests profane the sanctuary; they do violence to instruction.

<sup>5</sup> The righteous LORD is in her; He does no wrong. He applies His justice morning by morning; He does not fail at dawn, yet the one who does wrong knows no shame.

<sup>6</sup> I have cut off nations; their corner towers are destroyed. I have laid waste their streets, with no one to pass

through. Their cities lie devastated, without a person, without an inhabitant.

<sup>7</sup> I thought: You will certainly fear Me and accept correction. Then her dwelling place would not be cut off based on all that I had allocated to her. However, they became more corrupt in all their actions.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, wait for Me--the LORD's declaration--until the day I rise up for plunder. For My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, in order to pour out My indignation on them, all My burning anger; for the whole earth will be consumed by the fire of My jealousy.

<sup>9</sup> For I will then restore pure speech to the peoples so that all of them may call on the name of Yahweh and serve Him with a single purpose.

<sup>10</sup> From beyond the rivers of Cush My supplicants, My dispersed people, will bring an offering to Me.

<sup>11</sup> On that day you will not be put to shame because of everything you have done in rebelling against Me. For then I will remove your boastful braggarts from among you, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.

<sup>12</sup> I will leave a meek and humble people among you, and they will trust in the name of Yahweh.

<sup>13</sup> The remnant of Israel will no longer do wrong or tell lies; a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. But they will pasture and lie down, with nothing to make them afraid.

<sup>14</sup> Sing for joy, Daughter Zion; shout loudly, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has removed your punishment; He has turned back your

enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is among you; you need no longer fear harm.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will bring you quietness with His love. He will delight in you with shouts of joy."

<sup>18</sup> I will gather those who have been driven from the appointed festivals; They will be a tribute from you, and reproach on her .

<sup>19</sup> Yes, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you. I will save the lame and gather the scattered; I will make those who were disgraced throughout the earth receive praise and fame.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you back, yes, at the time I will gather you. I will make

you famous and praiseworthy among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes. Yahweh has spoken.

# Haggai

**1** <sup>1</sup> In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

<sup>2</sup> "The LORD of Hosts says this: These people say: The time has not come for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt."

<sup>3</sup> The word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet:

<sup>4</sup> "Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"

<sup>5</sup> Now, the LORD of Hosts says this: "Think carefully about your ways:

<sup>6</sup> You have planted much but harvested little. You eat but never have enough to

be satisfied. You drink but never have enough to become drunk. You put on clothes but never have enough to get warm. The wage earner puts his wages into a bag with a hole in it."

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "Think carefully about your ways.

<sup>8</sup> Go up into the hills, bring down lumber, and build the house. Then I will be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "You expected much, but then it amounted to little. When you brought the harvest to your house, I ruined it. Why?" This is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts. "Because My house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house.

<sup>10</sup> So on your account, the skies have withheld the dew and the land its crops.

<sup>11</sup> I have summoned a drought on the fields and the hills, on the grain, new



wine, olive oil, and whatever the ground yields, on the people and animals, and on all that your hands produce."

<sup>12</sup> Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the entire remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. So the people feared the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> Haggai, the LORD's messenger, delivered the LORD's message to the people, "I am with you"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, the spirit of the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. They began work on the house of Yahweh of Hosts, their God,

<sup>15</sup> on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.

**2** <sup>1</sup> On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet:

<sup>2</sup> "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and to the remnant of the people:

<sup>3</sup> Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Doesn't it seem like nothing to you?

<sup>4</sup> Even so, be strong, Zerubbabel"--the LORD's declaration. "Be strong, Joshua son of Jehozadak, high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land"--the LORD's declaration. "Work! For I am with you"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>5</sup> "This is the promise I made to you when you came out of Egypt, and My

Spirit is present among you; don't be afraid."

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD of Hosts says this: "Once more, in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

<sup>7</sup> I will shake all the nations so that the treasures of all the nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>8</sup> "The silver and gold belong to Me"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>9</sup> "The final glory of this house will be greater than the first," says the LORD of Hosts. "I will provide peace in this place"--the declaration of 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 to Haggai the prophet:

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Ask the priests for a ruling.

<sup>12</sup> If a man is carrying consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and with his fold touches bread, stew, wine, oil, or any other food, does it become holy?" The priests answered, "No."

<sup>13</sup> Then Haggai asked, "If someone defiled by contact with a corpse touches any of these, does it become defiled?" The priests answered, "It becomes defiled."

<sup>14</sup> Then Haggai replied, "So is this people, and so is this nation before Me"--the LORD's declaration. "And so is every work of their hands; even what they offer there is defiled.

<sup>15</sup> "Now, reflect back from this day: Before one stone was placed on another in the LORD's temple,

<sup>16</sup> what state were you in? When someone came to a grain heap of 20

measures, it only amounted to 10; when one came to the winepress to dip 50 measures from the vat, it only amounted to 20.

<sup>17</sup> I struck you--all the work of your hands--with blight, mildew, and hail, but you didn't turn to Me"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>18</sup> "Consider carefully from this day forward; from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid; consider it carefully.

<sup>19</sup> Is there still seed left in the granary? The vine, the fig, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yet produced. But from this day on I will bless you."

<sup>20</sup> The word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month:

<sup>21</sup> "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah: I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.

<sup>22</sup> I will overturn royal thrones and destroy the power of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overturn chariots and their riders. Horses and their riders will fall, each by his brother's sword.

<sup>23</sup> On that day"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"I will take you, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, My servant"--the LORD's declaration--"and make you like My signet ring, for I have chosen you." This is the declaration of 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 son of Berechiah, son of Iddo:

<sup>2</sup> "The LORD was extremely angry with your ancestors.

<sup>3</sup> So tell the people: This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Return to Me"--this is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"and I will return to you, says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>4</sup> Do not be like your ancestors; the earlier prophets proclaimed to them: This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Turn from your evil ways and your evil deeds. But they did not listen or pay attention to Me"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>5</sup> "Where are your ancestors now? And do the prophets live forever?

<sup>6</sup> But didn't My words and My statutes that I commanded My servants the prophets overtake your ancestors? They repented and said: As the LORD of Hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so He has 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 son of Berechiah, son of Iddo:

<sup>8</sup> I looked out in the night and saw a man riding on a red horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in the valley. Behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses.

<sup>9</sup> I asked, "What are these, my lord?" The angel who was talking to me replied, "I will show you what they are."



<sup>10</sup> Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are the ones the LORD has sent to patrol the earth."

<sup>11</sup> They reported to the Angel of the LORD standing among the myrtle trees, "We have patrolled the earth, and right now the whole earth is calm and quiet."

<sup>12</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD responded, "How long, LORD of Hosts, will You withhold mercy from Jerusalem and the cities of Judah that You have been angry with these 70 years?"

<sup>13</sup> The LORD replied with kind and comforting words to the angel who was speaking with me.

<sup>14</sup> So the angel who was speaking with me said, "Proclaim: The LORD of Hosts says: I am extremely jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.

<sup>15</sup> I am fiercely angry with the nations that are at ease, for I was a little angry, but they made it worse.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I have graciously returned to Jerusalem; My house will be rebuilt within it"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"and a measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem.

<sup>17</sup> "Proclaim further: This is what the LORD of Hosts says: My cities will again overflow with prosperity; the LORD will once more comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem."

<sup>18</sup> Then I looked up and saw four horns.

<sup>19</sup> So I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these?" And he said to me, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.

<sup>21</sup> I asked, "What are they coming to do?" He replied, "These are the horns that scattered Judah so no one could raise his head. These craftsmen have come to terrify them, to cut off the horns of the nations that raised their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it."

**2** <sup>1</sup> I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand.

<sup>2</sup> I asked, "Where are you going?" He answered me, "To measure Jerusalem to determine its width and length."

<sup>3</sup> Then the angel who was speaking with me went out, and another angel went out to meet him.

<sup>4</sup> He said to him, "Run and tell this young man: Jerusalem will be inhabited without walls because of the number of people and livestock in it."

<sup>5</sup> The declaration of the LORD: "I will be a wall of fire around it, and I will be the glory within it."

<sup>6</sup> "Get up! Leave the land of the north"--the LORD's declaration--"for I have scattered you like the four winds of heaven"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>7</sup> "Go, Zion! Escape, you who are living with Daughter Babylon."

<sup>8</sup> For the LORD of Hosts says this: "He has sent Me for His glory against the nations who are plundering you, for anyone who touches you touches the pupil of His eye.

<sup>9</sup> I will move against them with My power, and they will become plunder for their own servants. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent Me.

<sup>10</sup> "Daughter Zion, shout for joy and be glad, for I am coming to dwell among you"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>11</sup> "Many nations will join themselves to the LORD on that day and become My people. I will dwell among you, and you

will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent Me to you.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will take possession of Judah as His portion in the Holy Land, and He will once again choose Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> Let all people be silent before the LORD, for He is coming from His holy dwelling."

**3** <sup>1</sup> Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, with Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Satan: "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! May the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Isn't this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

<sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was dressed with filthy clothes as he stood before the Angel.

<sup>4</sup> So He spoke to those standing before Him, "Take off his filthy clothes!" Then

He said to him, "See, I have removed your guilt from you, and I will clothe you with splendid robes."

<sup>5</sup> Then I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So a clean turban was placed on his head, and they clothed him in garments while the Angel of the LORD was standing nearby.

<sup>6</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD charged Joshua:

<sup>7</sup> "This is what the LORD of Hosts says: If you walk in My ways and keep My instructions, you will both rule My house and take care of My courts; I will also grant you access among these who are standing here.

<sup>8</sup> "Listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your colleagues sitting before you; indeed, these men are a sign that I am about to bring My servant, the Branch.

<sup>9</sup> Notice the stone I have set before Joshua; on that one stone are seven

eyes. I will engrave an inscription on it"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"and I will take away the guilt of this land in a single day.

<sup>10</sup> On that day, each of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and fig tree." This is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

**4** <sup>1</sup> The angel who was speaking with me then returned and roused me as one awakened out of sleep.

<sup>2</sup> He asked me, "What do you see?" I replied, "I see a solid gold lampstand there with a bowl on its top. It has seven lamps on it and seven channels for each of the lamps on its top.

<sup>3</sup> There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

<sup>4</sup> Then I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?"

<sup>5</sup> "Don't you know what they are?" replied the angel who was speaking with me. I said, "No, my lord."

<sup>6</sup> So he answered me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by strength or by might, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>7</sup> 'What are you, great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain. And he will bring out the capstone accompanied by shouts of: Grace, grace to it!'"

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>9</sup> "Zerubbabel's hands have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you.

<sup>10</sup> For who scorns the day of small things? These seven eyes of the LORD, which scan throughout the whole earth,



will rejoice when they see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."

<sup>11</sup> I asked him, "What are the two olive trees on the right and left of the lampstand?"

<sup>12</sup> And I questioned him further, "What are the two olive branches beside the two gold conduits, from which golden oil pours out?"

<sup>13</sup> Then he inquired of me, "Don't you know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied.

<sup>14</sup> "These are the two anointed ones," he said, "who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

**5** <sup>1</sup> I looked up again and saw a flying scroll.

<sup>2</sup> "What do you see?" he asked me. "I see a flying scroll," I replied, "30 feet long and 15 feet wide."

<sup>3</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land, for

every thief will be removed according to what is written on one side, and everyone who swears falsely will be removed according to what is written on the other side.

<sup>4</sup> I will send it out,"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It will stay inside his house and destroy it along with its timbers and stones."

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel who was speaking with me came forward and told me, "Look up and see what this is that is approaching."

<sup>6</sup> So I asked, "What is it?" He responded, "It's a measuring basket that is approaching." And he continued, "This is their iniquity in all the land."

<sup>7</sup> Then a lead cover was lifted, and there was a woman sitting inside the basket.

<sup>8</sup> "This is Wickedness," he said. He shoved her down into the basket and pushed the lead weight over its opening.

<sup>9</sup> Then I looked up and saw two women approaching with the wind in their wings. Their wings were like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and sky.

<sup>10</sup> So I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "Where are they taking the basket?"

<sup>11</sup> "To build a shrine for it in the land of Shinar," he told me. "When that is ready, the basket will be placed there on its pedestal."

**6** <sup>1</sup> Then I looked up again and saw four chariots coming from between two mountains. And the mountains were made of bronze.

<sup>2</sup> The first chariot had red horses, the second chariot black horses,

<sup>3</sup> the third chariot white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses--all strong horses.

<sup>4</sup> So I inquired of the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?"

<sup>5</sup> The angel told me, "These are the four spirits of heaven going out after presenting themselves to the Lord of the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> The one with the black horses is going to the land of the north, the white horses are going after them, but the dappled horses are going to the land of the south."

<sup>7</sup> As the strong horses went out, they wanted to go patrol the earth, and the LORD said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth.

<sup>8</sup> Then He summoned me saying, "See, those going to the land of the north have pacified My Spirit in the northern land."

<sup>9</sup> The word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>10</sup> "Take an offering from the exiles, from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go that same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah.

<sup>11</sup> Take silver and gold, make crowns and place them on the head of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

<sup>12</sup> You are to tell him: This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Here is a man whose name is Branch; He will branch out from His place and build the LORD's temple.

<sup>13</sup> Yes, He will build the LORD's temple; He will be clothed in splendor and will sit on His throne and rule. There will also be a priest on His throne, and there will be peaceful counsel between the two of them.

<sup>14</sup> The crown will reside in the LORD's temple as a memorial to Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen son of Zephaniah.

<sup>15</sup> People who are far off will come and build the LORD's temple, and you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent Me to you. This will happen when you fully obey 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, Regem-melech, and their men to plead for the LORD's favor

<sup>3</sup> by asking the priests who were at the house of the LORD of Hosts as well as the prophets, "Should we mourn and fast in the fifth month as we have done these many years?"

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD of Hosts came to me:

<sup>5</sup> "Ask all the people of the land and the priests: When you fasted and lamented in the fifth and in the seventh months

for these 70 years, did you really fast for Me?

<sup>6</sup> When you eat and drink, don't you eat and drink simply for yourselves?

<sup>7</sup> Aren't these the words that the LORD proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem was inhabited and secure, along with its surrounding cities, and when the southern region and the Judean foothills were inhabited?"

<sup>8</sup> The word of the LORD came to Zechariah:

<sup>9</sup> "The LORD of Hosts says this: Render true justice. Show faithful love and compassion to one another.

<sup>10</sup> Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the stranger or the poor, and do not plot evil in your hearts against one another.

<sup>11</sup> But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder; they closed their ears so they could not hear.

<sup>12</sup> They made their hearts like a rock so as not to obey the law or the words that the LORD of Hosts had sent by His Spirit through the earlier prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>13</sup> Just as He had called, and they would not listen, so when they called, I would not listen," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>14</sup> "I scattered them with a windstorm over all the nations that had not known them, and the land was left desolate behind them, with no one coming or going. They turned a pleasant land into a desolation."

**8** <sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD of Hosts came:

<sup>2</sup> "The LORD of Hosts says this: I am extremely jealous for Zion; I am jealous for her with great wrath."

<sup>3</sup> The LORD says this: "I will return to Zion and live in Jerusalem. Then



Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, the mountain of the LORD of Hosts, and the Holy Mountain."

<sup>4</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "Old men and women will again sit along the streets of Jerusalem, each with a staff in hand because of advanced age.

<sup>5</sup> The streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in them."

<sup>6</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "Though it may seem incredible to the remnant of this people in those days, should it also seem incredible to Me?"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "I will save My people from the land of the east and the land of the west.

<sup>8</sup> I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem. They will be My people, and I will be their faithful and righteous God."

<sup>9</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "Let your hands be strong, you who now hear

these words that the prophets spoke when the foundations were laid for the rebuilding of the temple, the house of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>10</sup> For prior to those days neither man nor beast had wages. There was no safety from the enemy for anyone who came or went, for I turned everyone against his neighbor.

<sup>11</sup> But now, I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>12</sup> "For they will sow in peace: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce, and the skies will yield their dew. I will give the remnant of this people all these things as an inheritance.

<sup>13</sup> As you have been a curse among the nations, house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you will be a blessing. Don't be afraid; let your hands be strong."

<sup>14</sup> For the LORD of Hosts says this: "As I resolved to treat you badly when your fathers provoked Me to anger, and would not relent," says the LORD of Hosts,

<sup>15</sup> "so I have resolved again in these days to do what is good to Jerusalem and the house of Judah. Don't be afraid.

<sup>16</sup> These are the things you must do: Speak truth to one another; render honest and peaceful judgments in your gates.

<sup>17</sup> Do not plot evil in your hearts against your neighbor, and do not love perjury, for I hate all this"--the LORD's declaration.

<sup>18</sup> Then the word of the LORD of Hosts came to me:

<sup>19</sup> "The LORD of Hosts says this: The fast of the fourth month , the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth will become times of joy, gladness, and cheerful festivals for the

house of Judah. Therefore, love truth and peace."

<sup>20</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "Peoples will yet come, the residents of many cities;

<sup>21</sup> the residents of one city will go to another, saying: Let's go at once to plead for the LORD's favor and to seek the LORD of Hosts. I am also going.

<sup>22</sup> Many peoples and strong nations will come to seek the LORD of Hosts in Jerusalem and to plead for the LORD's favor."

<sup>23</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "In those days, 10 men from nations of every language will grab the robe of a Jewish man tightly, urging: Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

**9**<sup>1</sup> An Oracle The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach, and Damascus is its resting place--for the

eyes of men are on the LORD--against all the tribes of Israel

<sup>2</sup> and also against Hamath, which borders it, as well as Tyre and Sidon, though they are very shrewd.

<sup>3</sup> Tyre has built herself a fortress; she has heaped up silver like dust and gold like the dirt of the streets.

<sup>4</sup> Listen! The Lord will impoverish her and cast her wealth into the sea; she herself will be consumed by fire.

<sup>5</sup> Ashkelon will see it and be afraid; Gaza too, and will writhe in great pain, as will Ekron, for her hope will fail. There will cease to be a king in Gaza, and Ashkelon will become uninhabited.

<sup>6</sup> A mongrel people will live in Ashdod, and I will destroy the pride of the Philistines.

<sup>7</sup> I will remove the blood from their mouths and the detestable things from between their teeth. Then they too will

become a remnant for our God; they will become like a clan in Judah and Ekron like the Jebusites.

<sup>8</sup> I will set up camp at My house against an army, against those who march back and forth, and no oppressor will march against them again, for now I have seen with My own eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The bow of war will be removed, and He will proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion will extend from sea to sea, from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you, because of the blood of your covenant, I will release your prisoners from the waterless cistern.

<sup>12</sup> Return to a stronghold, you prisoners who have hope; today I declare that I will restore double to you.

<sup>13</sup> For I will bend Judah as My bow ; I will fill that bow with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, Zion, against your sons, Greece. I will make you like a warrior's sword.

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD will appear over them, and His arrow will fly like lightning. The Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and advance with the southern storms.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD of Hosts will defend them. They will consume and conquer with slingstones; they will drink and be rowdy as if with wine. They will be as full as the sprinkling basin, like those at the corners of the altar.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of His people; for they are like jewels in a crown, sparkling over His land.

<sup>17</sup> How lovely and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men flourish, and new wine, the young women.

**10** <sup>1</sup> Ask the LORD for rain in the season of spring rain. The LORD makes the rain clouds, and He will give them showers of rain and crops in the field for everyone.

<sup>2</sup> For the idols speak falsehood, and the diviners see illusions; they relate empty dreams and offer empty comfort. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they suffer affliction because there is no shepherd.

<sup>3</sup> My anger burns against the shepherds, so I will punish the leaders. For the LORD of Hosts has tended His flock, the house



of Judah; He will make them like His majestic steed in battle.

<sup>4</sup> From them will come the cornerstone, from them the tent peg, from them the battle bow, from them every ruler.

Together

<sup>5</sup> they will be like warriors in battle trampling down the mud of the streets. They will fight because the LORD is with them, and they will put horsemen to shame.

<sup>6</sup> I will strengthen the house of Judah and deliver the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them, and they will be as though I had never rejected them. For I am the LORD their God, and I will answer them.

<sup>7</sup> Ephraim will be like a warrior, and their hearts will be glad as if with wine. Their children will see it and be glad; their hearts will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> I will whistle and gather them because I have redeemed them; they will be as numerous as they once were.

<sup>9</sup> Though I sow them among the nations, they will remember Me in the distant lands; they and their children will live and return.

<sup>10</sup> I will bring them back from the land of Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, but it will not be enough for them.

<sup>11</sup> He will pass through the sea of distress and strike the waves of the sea; all the depths of the Nile will dry up. The pride of Assyria will be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt will come to an end.

<sup>12</sup> I will strengthen them in the LORD, and they will march in His name--this is Yahweh's declaration.

**11** <sup>1</sup> Open your gates, Lebanon, and fire will consume your cedars.

<sup>2</sup> Wail, cypress, for the cedar has fallen; the glorious trees are destroyed! Wail, oaks of Bashan, for the stately forest has fallen!

<sup>3</sup> Listen to the wail of the shepherds, for their glory is destroyed. Listen to the roar of young lions, for the thickets of the Jordan are destroyed.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD my God says this: "Shepherd the flock intended for slaughter.

<sup>5</sup> Those who buy them slaughter them but are not punished. Those who sell them say: Praise the LORD because I have become rich! Even their own shepherds have no compassion for them.

<sup>6</sup> Indeed, I will no longer have compassion on the inhabitants of the land"--the LORD's declaration. "Instead, I will turn everyone over to his neighbor

and his king. They will devastate the land, and I will not deliver it from them."

<sup>7</sup> So I shepherded the flock intended for slaughter, the afflicted of the flock. I took two staffs, calling one Favor and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock.

<sup>8</sup> In one month I got rid of three shepherds. I became impatient with them, and they also detested me.

<sup>9</sup> Then I said, "I will no longer shepherd you. Let what is dying die, and let what is going astray go astray; let the rest devour each other's flesh."

<sup>10</sup> Next I took my staff called Favor and cut it in two, annulling the covenant I had made with all the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> It was annulled on that day, and so the afflicted of the flock who were watching me knew that it was the word of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Then I said to them, "If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not,

keep them ." So they weighed my wages, 30 pieces of silver.

<sup>13</sup> "Throw it to the potter," the LORD said to me--this magnificent price I was valued by them. So I took the 30 pieces of silver and threw it into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

<sup>14</sup> Then I cut in two my second staff, Union, annulling the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD also said to me: "Take the equipment of a foolish shepherd.

<sup>16</sup> I am about to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are going astray, and he will not seek the lost or heal the broken. He will not sustain the healthy, but he will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hooves.

<sup>17</sup> Woe to the worthless shepherd who deserts the flock! May a sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his

arm wither away and his right eye go completely blind!"

**12** <sup>1</sup> An Oracle The word of the LORD concerning Israel. A declaration of the LORD, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him.

<sup>2</sup> "Look, I will make Jerusalem a cup that causes staggering for the peoples who surround the city. The siege against Jerusalem will also involve Judah.

<sup>3</sup> On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who try to lift it will injure themselves severely when all the nations of the earth gather against her.

<sup>4</sup> On that day"--the LORD's declaration--"I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness. I will keep a watchful eye on the house of Judah but

strike all the horses of the nations with blindness.

<sup>5</sup> Then each of the leaders of Judah will think to himself: The residents of Jerusalem are my strength through the LORD of Hosts, their God.

<sup>6</sup> On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves; they will consume all the peoples around them on the right and the left, while Jerusalem continues to be inhabited on its site, in Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of David's house and the glory of Jerusalem's residents may not be greater than that of Judah.

<sup>8</sup> On that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the one who is weakest among them will be like David on that day, and the house of

David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD, before them.

<sup>9</sup> On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for Him as one weeps for a firstborn.

<sup>11</sup> On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

<sup>12</sup> The land will mourn, every family by itself: the family of David's house by itself and their women by themselves; the family of Nathan's house by itself and their women by themselves;

<sup>13</sup> the family of Levi's house by itself and their women by themselves; the



family of Shimei by itself and their women by themselves;

<sup>14</sup> all the remaining families, every family by itself, and their women by themselves.

**13** <sup>1</sup> "On that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the residents of Jerusalem, to wash away sin and impurity.

<sup>2</sup> On that day"--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts--"I will erase the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered. I will remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

<sup>3</sup> If a man still prophesies, his father and his mother who bore him will say to him: You cannot remain alive because you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD. When he prophesies, his father and his mother who bore him will pierce him through.

<sup>4</sup> On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; they will not put on a hairy cloak in order to deceive.

<sup>5</sup> He will say: I am not a prophet; I am a tiller of the soil, for a man purchased me as a servant since my youth.

<sup>6</sup> If someone asks him: What are these wounds on your chest?--then he will answer: The wounds I received in the house of my friends.

<sup>7</sup> Sword, awake against My shepherd, against the man who is My associate--the declaration of the LORD of Hosts. Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will also turn My hand against the little ones.

<sup>8</sup> In the whole land--the LORD's declaration--two-thirds will be cut off and die, but a third will be left in it.

<sup>9</sup> I will put this third through the fire; I will refine them as silver is refined and

test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say: They are My people, and they will say: The LORD is our God."

**14** <sup>1</sup> A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided in your presence.

<sup>2</sup> I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem for battle. The city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed from the city.

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations as He fights on a day of battle.

<sup>4</sup> On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. The Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, forming a huge valley, so that half the mountain

will move to the north and half to the south.

<sup>5</sup> You will flee by My mountain valley, for the valley of the mountains will extend to Azal. You will 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 will be no light; the sunlight and moonlight will diminish.

<sup>7</sup> It will be a day known only to Yahweh, without day or night, but there will be light at evening.

<sup>8</sup> On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea, in summer and winter alike.

<sup>9</sup> On that day Yahweh will become king over all the earth--Yahweh alone, and His name alone.

<sup>10</sup> All the land from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem will be changed into a plain. But Jerusalem will be raised up and will remain on its site from the Benjamin Gate to the place of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses.

<sup>11</sup> People will live there, and never again will there be a curse of destruction. So Jerusalem will dwell in security.

<sup>12</sup> This will be the plague the LORD strikes all the peoples with, who have warred against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

<sup>13</sup> On that day a great panic from the LORD will be among them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will rise against the other.

<sup>14</sup> Judah will also fight at Jerusalem, and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected: gold, silver, and clothing in great abundance.

<sup>15</sup> The same plague as the previous one will strike the horses, mules, camels, donkeys, and all the animals that are in those camps.

<sup>16</sup> Then all the survivors from the nations that came against Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to celebrate the Festival of Booths.

<sup>17</sup> Should any of the families of the earth not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, rain will not fall on them.

<sup>18</sup> And if the people of Egypt will not go up and enter, then rain will not fall on them; this will be the plague the LORD inflicts on the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Booths.

<sup>19</sup> This will be the punishment of Egypt and all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Booths.

<sup>20</sup> On that day, the words HOLY TO THE LORD will be on the bells of the horses. The pots in the house of the LORD will be like the sprinkling basins before the altar.

<sup>21</sup> Every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of Hosts. Everyone who sacrifices will come and take some of the pots to cook in. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of Hosts.

# Malachi

**1** <sup>1</sup> An oracle: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

<sup>2</sup> "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you ask: "How have You loved us?" "Wasn't Esau Jacob's brother?" This is the LORD's declaration. "Even so, I loved Jacob,

<sup>3</sup> but I hated Esau. I turned his mountains into a wasteland, and gave his inheritance to the desert jackals."

<sup>4</sup> Though Edom says: "We have been devastated, but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of Hosts says this: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called a wicked country and the people the LORD has cursed forever.



<sup>5</sup> Your own eyes will see this, and you yourselves will say: The LORD is great, even beyond the borders of Israel.

<sup>6</sup> "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. But if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is your fear of Me? says the LORD of Hosts to you priests, who despise My name." Yet you ask: "How have we despised Your name?"

<sup>7</sup> "By presenting defiled food on My altar." You ask: "How have we defiled You?" When you say: "The LORD's table is contemptible."

<sup>8</sup> "When you present a blind animal for sacrifice, is it not wrong? And when you present a lame or sick animal, is it not wrong? Bring it to your governor! Would he be pleased with you or show you favor?" asks the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>9</sup> "And now ask for God's favor. Will He be gracious to us? Since this has come

from your hands, will He show any of you favor?" asks the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>10</sup> "I wish one of you would shut the temple doors, so you would no longer kindle a useless fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of Hosts, "and I will accept no offering from your hands.

<sup>11</sup> "For My name will be great among the nations, from the rising of the sun to its setting. Incense and pure offerings will be presented in My name in every place because My name will be great among the nations," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>12</sup> But you are profaning it when you say: "The Lord's table is defiled, and its product, its food, is contemptible."

<sup>13</sup> You also say: "Look, what a nuisance!" "And you scorn it," says the LORD of Hosts. "You bring stolen, lame, or sick animals. You bring this as an offering!

Am I to accept that from your hands?" asks the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> "The deceiver is cursed who has an acceptable male in his flock and makes a vow but sacrifices a defective animal to the Lord. For I am a great King," says the LORD of Hosts, "and My name will be feared among the nations.

**2** <sup>1</sup> "Therefore, this decree is for you priests:

<sup>2</sup> If you don't listen, and if you don't take it to heart to honor My name," says the LORD of Hosts, "I will send a curse among you, and I will curse your blessings. In fact, I have already begun to curse them because you are not taking it to heart.

<sup>3</sup> "Look, I am going to rebuke your descendants, and I will spread animal waste over your faces, the waste from your festival sacrifices, and you will be taken away with it.

<sup>4</sup> Then you will know that I sent you this decree so My covenant with Levi may continue," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>5</sup> "My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave these to him; it called for reverence, and he revered Me and stood in awe of My name.

<sup>6</sup> True instruction was in his mouth, and nothing wrong was found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and fairness and turned many from sin.

<sup>7</sup> For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, because he is the messenger of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>8</sup> "You, on the other hand, have turned from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have violated the covenant of Levi," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>9</sup> "So I in turn have made you despised and humiliated before all the people

because you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in your instruction."

<sup>10</sup> Don't all of us have one Father? Didn't one God create us? Why then do we act treacherously against one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

<sup>11</sup> Judah has acted treacherously, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the LORD's sanctuary, which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

<sup>12</sup> To the man who does this, may the LORD cut off any descendants from the tents of Jacob, even if they present an offering to the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>13</sup> And this is another thing you do: you cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning, because

He no longer respects your offerings or receives them gladly from your hands.

<sup>14</sup> Yet you ask, "For what reason?"

Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have acted treacherously against her, though she was your marriage partner and your wife by covenant.

<sup>15</sup> Didn't the one God make us with a remnant of His life-breath? And what does the One seek? A godly offspring. So watch yourselves carefully, and do not act treacherously against the wife of your youth.

<sup>16</sup> "If he hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD God of Israel, "he covers his garment with injustice," says the LORD of Hosts. Therefore, watch yourselves carefully, and do not act treacherously.

<sup>17</sup> You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you ask, "How have we

wearied Him ?" When you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the LORD's sight, and He is pleased with them," or "Where is the God of justice?"

**3**<sup>1</sup> "See, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple, the Messenger of the covenant you desire--see, He is coming," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of His coming? And who will be able to stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire and like cleansing lye.

<sup>3</sup> He will be like a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> And the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will please the LORD as in days of old and years gone by.

<sup>5</sup> "I will come to you in judgment, and I will be ready to witness against sorcerers and adulterers; against those who swear falsely; against those who oppress the widow and the fatherless, and cheat the wage earner; and against those who deny justice to the foreigner. They do not fear Me," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>6</sup> "Because I, Yahweh, have not changed, you descendants of Jacob have not been destroyed.

<sup>7</sup> "Since the days of your fathers, you have turned from My statutes; you have not kept them . Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Hosts. But you ask: "How can we return?"

<sup>8</sup> "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!" You ask: "How do we rob



You?" "By not making the payments of 10 percent and the contributions.

<sup>9</sup> You are suffering under a curse, yet you--the whole nation--are still robbing Me.

<sup>10</sup> Bring the full 10 percent into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way," says the LORD of Hosts. "See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.

<sup>11</sup> I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not ruin the produce of your ground, and your vine in your field will not be barren," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>12</sup> "Then all the nations will consider you fortunate, for you will be a delightful land," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>13</sup> "Your words against Me are harsh," says the LORD. Yet you ask: "What have we spoken against You?"

<sup>14</sup> You have said: "It is useless to serve God. What have we gained by keeping His requirements and walking mournfully before the LORD of Hosts?"

<sup>15</sup> So now we consider the arrogant to be fortunate. Not only do those who commit wickedness prosper, they even test God and escape."

<sup>16</sup> At that time those who feared the LORD spoke to one another. The LORD took notice and listened. So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared Yahweh and had high regard for His name.

<sup>17</sup> "They will be Mine," says the LORD of Hosts, "a special possession on the day I am preparing. I will have compassion on them as a man has compassion on his son who serves him.

<sup>18</sup> So you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked,

between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

**4**<sup>1</sup> "For indeed, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and everyone who commits wickedness will become stubble. The coming day will consume them," says the LORD of Hosts, "not leaving them root or branches.

<sup>2</sup> But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go out and playfully jump like calves from the stall.

<sup>3</sup> You will trample the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day I am preparing," says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>4</sup> "Remember the instruction of Moses My servant, the statutes and ordinances I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup> Look, I am going to 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. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse."

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