

Psalms

From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians

NOTE: Recognize that the book of Psalms was the IsraElite songbook, so each Psalm was originally written as poetry and had a cadence. Since this can be clearly seen in even the Greek translation of the Septuagint, we have tried to restore the poetic beauty of the words in our English translation by adding or deleting extraneous words to compensate for the language differences, while not allowing the poetic changes to harm the integrity of the original message. We found that by doing this (by looking for natural cadence and following the laws of Hebrew poetry), it became much easier to see where errors and changes have crept in due to translating or scribal errors, for it soon became clear that some of the Psalms (note Psalm 31, for example) have suffered obvious losses, which required us to work harder to restore a natural cadence and logical order to the sentence structures.

Psalm 1

NOTE: Why Psalm and not Psalms? Recognize that this is the book of IsraElite hymns or sacred music, for 'psalm' means 'sacred hymn.' Therefore, each of the Psalms is just a song (not songs) in that book. So it is a book of Psalms (songs), but each Chapter is just a Psalm (or song).

- ¹ Blest is the one who ignores the impious,
And will not side with the sinners,
Or sit among the disgusting.
- ² For he wants to do the Will of the Lord,
And considers His Laws day and night.
- ³ Thus he'll be like a tree that's planted near water,
And will bear fruit every season...
He'll thrive and his leaves will not drop.
- ⁴ But for the impious, this will never be so;
For they're like the dust that's blown 'cross the earth.
- ⁵ So they won't be raised in the Judgment,
Nor will sinners see the [blessings] on the righteous.
- ⁶ For Jehovah knows what the righteous have done,
And the ways of the impious will perish.

Psalm 2

A Psalm of David.

NOTE: Superscriptions such as the one above are notes to show who wrote the song, or for whom it was written, or what inspired its writing, or the occasions on which it is to be sung, or how it is to be sung.

- ¹ Why do the nations and all of their peoples,
Think about things that are worthless?
- ² For the rulers of their lands and their kings,
Are against Jehovah and the one He anointed.
- ³ They say, 'We should strip off their bonds,
And we should throw off their yokes.'
- ⁴ But the One in the heavens is laughing...
At them, Jehovah is laughing.
- ⁵ Then, in His anger, He'll speak,
And in His rage, He'll disturb them and say:
- ⁶ 'I've placed My king on Mount Zion,
As the ruler of My Holy Place.'

⁷ Then the Lord spoke to me about His decree:
[He told me], 'You are My son,
And today, I am your Father.
⁸ Just ask and I'll give you the nations,
All the way to the ends of the earth,
As those whom you will inherit.
⁹ With a rod of iron, you'll lead them,
And break them like pots made of clay.'
¹⁰ O kings of the earth, pay attention!
And those judging the lands should now learn!
¹¹ Serve Jehovah in fear;
Yes, all should tremble and praise Him.
¹² Give ear to all these instructions,
So you don't provoke Him to rage.
For, if you should kindle His anger,
Away from the righteous, you'll perish,
While those yielding to Him will be blest.

Psalm 3

A Psalm of David when he was running from his son AbSalom.

¹ O Jehovah;
Why are so many against me,
And why are so many attacking?
² Concerning my soul, they are saying:
'He won't be saved by [his] God.'
³ But You are my shield, O Jehovah...
You're my glory who raises my head.
⁴ For, with my voice, I've called to the Lord,
And from His holy mountain, He heard me.
⁵ Then I went to bed and I slept,
And when I awoke, God sent me His aid.
⁶ So, I won't fear tens of thousands,
Who've surrounded me and [have planned to] attack.
⁷ Stand up and act, O Jehovah!
Deliver me please, O my God!
You have cut down all of those,
Who have no reason to hate me,
And broken the teeth of the sinners.
⁸ Yes, salvation comes from Jehovah,
And He blesses His people.

Psalm 4

To the music director; a Psalm of David.

¹ When I called to God in very hard times,
He felt pity and heard what I prayed.

² [Hear me], O sons of men;
How long will you stay so hardhearted,
And why do you love what is foolish...
Always searching for things that aren't true?

³ You must be aware of the wonders,
That God has performed for His clean one;
For He listened to me when I called out to Him.

⁴ So be angry with me, but don't sin...
Complain as you pray in your beds.

⁵ To Him, offer righteous sacrifices,
And put your trust in Jehovah!

⁶ Many have asked, 'Who'll show us His good things?
Who will show us the light from God's face?'

⁷ [O God]; You've put joy in my heart...
You've filled it with fruit, grain, and oil.

⁸ So, I will lie down in peace, O my Lord;
For, You have filled me with hope.

Psalm 5

To the music director; a Psalm of David to his heir.

¹ Lend me Your ears, O Jehovah,
Please listen to me when I call...

² Hear my voice and the things that I beg,
As I pray to Jehovah, my King and my God!

³ Hear my voice in the morning...
As I pray, stand by me and watch me.

⁴ For, You aren't the God of lawbreakers,
And the wicked may never travel with You.

⁵ O Lord;
You don't abide the lawbreakers,
And before Your face, the lawless won't stand.

⁶ For You will destroy all the liars,
And You hate men of blood and deceit.

⁷ Because of Your mercy, I'll enter Your House,
And toward Your Most Holy, I'll bow...
I'll always [show that] I fear You.

⁸ O Jehovah;
Lead me in ways that are righteous,
When my enemies are standing before me.
Straighten out all of my paths,

As You view them before You.

⁹ There is no truth in their mouths,
And foolish ways are bound in their hearts.
Their throats are like open tombs,
And they've used their tongues to deceive.

¹⁰ So, bring Your judgments against them, O God,
And cause their council to fail.
For their irreverence, drive them away,
Since they're in rebellion against You.

¹¹ All can be glad who've put trust in You;
May they cry out and loudly shout cheers!
For among them, You'll dwell in Your Tent,
And those loving Your Name will boast about You.

¹² For it's You who blesses the righteous, O Lord;
With the shield of goodness, You've crowned us.

Psalm 6

To the music director: A psalm of David for the eight-string lyre.

¹ O Jehovah;
Don't discipline me in Your rage,
And please don't correct me in anger.
² Show mercy on me, for I'm weak, O my God;
My bones are shaking, so heal me, O Lord.

³ The man that I am is deeply disturbed!
So, where have You gone, O my God;
How long will You stay far away?

⁴ Return to me... please save me [O Lord]!
Deliver me please, in Your mercy!
⁵ For the dead are unable to bow before You...
In the place of the dead, who can praise You?

⁶ Of moaning, I have grown so tired...
Each night, I soak my bed with my tears.

⁷ For my eyes are very disturbed,
By all the troubles they see.

I've aged because of those who oppose me;

⁸ So, please remove all the lawless from me,
And hear the sounds of my weeping, O God.

⁹ Jehovah has heard the things that I've begged...
My God showed me favor and heard what I prayed!

¹⁰ So may those who hate me be shamed and disturbed...
May my enemies all be dishonored.

Psalm 7

A Psalm of David that he sang to Jehovah because of the things that were said by Cush [of the tribe] of Benjamin.

¹ O Jehovah, my God;
In You, I have put all my trust,
So, save me from those who pursue me.

² May my life not be snatched by those lions,
Where no one can ransom or save me!

³ O Jehovah, my God;
If I have done so many bad things,
Or if, in my hands, there's injustice...

⁴ If I've repaid bad to those who've done good,
May I fall before my enemies with nothing.

⁵ May those who hate me chase me and catch me,
Then trample my soul to the ground,
And may it thereafter camp in the dust.

⁶ O Jehovah, my God;
In Your rage, now arise...
Before my enemies, stand tall!
Awaken, O Jehovah my God,
And give the order to attack them!

⁷ By many, I have been surrounded,
So, now's the time for You to arise.

⁸ Condemn all these people, Jehovah,
But please find me guiltless and righteous.

⁹ O God;
Bring an end to the badness of sinners,
And straighten the ways of the righteous...
Examine their their kidneys and hearts.

¹⁰ Please send aid, O my God,
And save all those with straight hearts.

¹¹ My God is just, forgiving, and strong...
He's not One who's angry each day.

¹² But, if you should try to oppose Him,
He will shine up His sword,
And He will stretch tight His bow,

¹³ As He prepares the weapons of death,
And as He prepares flaming arrows.

¹⁴ See how the wicked are slaves to their sins;
For in misery, they are conceived,
And to lawless ways, given birth.

¹⁵ But, when they dig out a pit,
They'll fall into that cesspool they've made;
Yes, into the pit that they've dug.

¹⁶ May their misery come down upon their own heads...
May their unrighteous ways fall upon them.
¹⁷ But, I will acknowledge my God's righteous ways,
And strum to His Holy Name.

Psalm 8

To the director over the wine vats; a Psalm of David.

¹ O Jehovah, our Lord;
How great is Your Name on the earth,
For Your majesty has reached to the heavens.
² From the mouths of infants and babies,
You have ordered up praises.
And as for those who oppose You; You'll remove the opponents and avengers.
³ I see in the skies, the works of Your hands...
The moon and the stars that You've founded.
⁴ So, what is man that You'd think about him,
Or a son of man that You'd visit?
⁵ A bit less than Your messengers, You've made him,
Then You crowned him with glory and honor.
⁶ You placed him over the works of Your hands,
And put it all under his feet.
⁷ You put sheep and oxen together,
And all the cattle that live in the plains.
⁸ [You put] flying things in the sky,
And fish in the water, treading paths through the seas.
⁹ O Jehovah, our Lord;
How wonderful is Your Name on the earth.

Psalm 9

To director; A private Psalm of David to his son.

¹ O Jehovah;
With my whole heart, I will praise You,
And I will describe all Your wonders.
² O Highest One;
In You, I'll be joyful and glad,
And I will strum to Your Name.
³ You've turned back my enemies and made them retreat...
Before Your face, they are weak and destroyed.
⁴ You've heard my case and my cause,
And from Your throne, You've sent righteous decisions.
⁵ You have scolded the gentiles,
And wiped the irreverent away...
Through the age and the age of the ages,

You've wiped away all of their names.

⁶ My enemy's swords have all failed,
And the memory of them and their cities,
Has been wiped away [from our land].

⁷ Jehovah lives through the ages,
And He's ready to judge from His throne.

⁸ In justice, He'll judge the habitation of man;
And He'll judge the peoples uprightly.

⁹ Jehovah is a refuge to the needy,
And a helper in times of distress.

¹⁰ Those who know You will trust in Your Name;
For You don't turn from those who are searching for You.

¹¹ Strum to Jehovah, you people on Zion;
Proclaim His deeds to the nations!

¹² For, He remembers whose blood is required,
[And He hears] the cries of the needy.

¹³ Show mercy on me, O Jehovah;
From the gate of death, please lift me away,

¹⁴ So I can shout in joy about Your salvation,
And praise You before Zion's gates.

¹⁵ In their corruption, the nations are mired,
And in their own snares, their feet have been caught.

¹⁶ For Jehovah is known as the One who brings justice,
And sinners are snared by the works of their hands.

¹⁷ Please bring Your vengeance upon sinners,
And send those who hate You away to their graves.

¹⁸ But please don't forget those in need,
Nor allow the hopes of the poor to be crushed.

¹⁹ Please arise, O Jehovah...
May You not be beaten by men!

Stand the nations before You in judgment,

²⁰ And appoint someone to give them their laws,
Then remind them that they are just mortals.

Psalm 10

¹ O Jehovah;
Why have You stayed far away?
Why have You left us, for we need You now!

² Because of their pride and their wicked ways,
The Godless have been chasing the poor.
But, may these proud ones fall into the trap,
Of the results of their slander.

³ The sinners are blessing themselves,
With the things that their [hearts] desire...
That's how the unrighteous get praise.

⁴ These sinners provoke God to rage,
Because they won't search for Jehovah;
So with them, our God never walks,
⁵ And He views their ways as disgusting.

O please don't decide on their behalf...
Make them rule among people who hate them.

⁶ For, they have said in their hearts:
'I will never be shaken...
Through generations, nothing bad will happen to me.'

⁷ Bitterness and cursing is what fills their mouths;
Toil, misery, and treachery comes from their tongues.

⁸ With the rich, they lie waiting in ambush,
To kill the innocent and poor.

⁹ They lie and wait in concealment,
Like lions that are inside their lair.
They lie in wait to capture the poor,
So they can snatch them away,
And keep them under their power.

¹⁰ But their domination of the needy,
Is what will lead to their downfall.

¹¹ For they say in their hearts, 'God's forgotten...
God's turned his face, so He doesn't see.'

¹² So arise, O Jehovah my God!
Raise your hand high, and remember the poor!

¹³ The irreverent keep making God angry,
Because they've said in their hearts:
'There will not be an accounting.'

¹⁴ But, You can see the misery they bring;
So in rage, do not overlook them...
Take them into Your hands!

For the poor and the orphans have nothing,
And their only helper is You.

¹⁵ So, break the arms of those sinners...
And when we search for them, they may not be found!

¹⁶ Through the age, Jehovah is king,
And into the age of the ages.
May the gentiles be wiped away from His land,

¹⁷ And may He hear the cries of the poor.

O Jehovah;
With Your ears, You have heard it...

The things that they say in their hearts.
¹⁸ Bring justice to the orphans and poor,
So such men will have no reason to boast!

Psalm 11

For the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ To Jehovah, I have submitted;
So, why has He said to my soul,
'Like a sparrow, you must fly to the mountains?'

² {Look!} Sinners have stretched tight their bows,
And prepared their arrows for the quiver,
To shoot at my heart in the moonlight.

³ Whatever You've built, they've demolished;
So, where are the righteous and what have they done?

⁴ Jehovah is in His Most Holy Place,
And His throne is high in the heavens.
But His eyes pay attention to the needy,
And His eyelids [are open] to see sons of men.

⁵ About the righteous, Jehovah inquires;
But those loving injustice, He hates to the core.

⁶ So on the unrighteous, He'll rain snares of fire...
They'll get sulfur and wind in their cup.

⁷ For Jehovah is just and He loves what is true...
The good things He sees [in front of] His face.

Psalm 12

To the director; the eighth Psalm of David.

¹ O Jehovah, please save me!
For all the holy have failed,
And few among men tell the truth.

² Each man, to his neighbor, now speaks foolish things...
Deceit and wrong, they speak from their hearts.

³ May Jehovah destroy lips of liars,
And those whose tongues boast about great things...

⁴ Those who say, 'We'll make our tongues great,
And ask with our lips, *Who's Jehovah?*'

⁵ 'Because of the misery of the poor,
And the moaning cries of the needy,
I'll arise and offer them safety...
To them, I will openly speak.'

⁶ Wise words from the Lord are like the best silver...
Wisdom refined seven times in a fire.

Though you stand tall in the heights, O Jehovah,
On the sons of men, You still keep an eye.
⁷ So, please watch over and keep us,
From [the bad ones of] this generation and age.
⁸ For the Godless now have us surrounded,
And around us, they walk everywhere.

Psalm 13

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ For how long, O Jehovah, will I be forgotten...
How long will You keep Your face turned...
Is this the way it will be 'til the end?
² How long must my life endure grief,
And plan for it, night and day in my heart...
How much longer will my enemies be stronger?
³ Listen to me, O Jehovah!
O my God, please look upon me!
Brighten my eyes, so I won't sleep in death...
⁴ May my enemies never say that they've won.
For, those who oppress me will cheer if I fall.
⁵ I have put faith in Your mercy,
And Your salvation brings joy to my heart.
⁶ So I'll sing to Jehovah who's blest me,
And I'll strum to His Name in the heights.

Psalm 14

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ 'There is no God,' says the fool in his heart,
As he does what's corrupt and disgusting...
For, no one is doing what's righteous!
² But, Jehovah looks down from the heavens,
To see if men's sons are searching for God.
³ [And He sees that] all are crooked and useless;
None are doing good... no, not one!
Their throats are like open tombs,
And they use the tongues in their throats to deceive.
Under their lips there's the poison of asps,
And with what's bitter, their mouths have been filled.
Their feet are in a great hurry,
To shed innocent blood and destroy.
There is misery in all of their ways;
The road to peace they've not known;
And in their eyes, there's no fear of God.

⁴ Those who break laws do not understand,
For they swallow down people as though they are bread.
They haven't called out to Jehovah,
⁵ So now they're afraid when there's nothing to fear.

With generations of the righteous, God is always nearby;
⁶ But most look down on wise words from the poor,
And on those put faith in Jehovah.
⁷ So, who will stand up for Zion,
And to IsraEl, help bring salvation?

But when Jehovah returns His captive peoples,
Jacob will cry out in joy,
And in IsraEl, there'll be reasons for gladness.

Psalm 15

A Psalm of David.

¹ O Jehovah;
Whom will You allow to visit Your Tent,
And who can camp on Your Holy Mount?
² Just the flawless who pursue righteous ways...
Just those who speak truth in their hearts...
³ Just those whose tongues won't speak treachery...
Just those who won't harm their neighbors,
Or scorn those living nearby...
⁴ Those who won't hang with the wicked.

They're the ones who praise those fearing the Lord,
And speak well of those who do as they say.
⁵ They don't lend money for interest,
Nor ask the innocent for bribes...
Through the ages, such ones won't be shaken.

Psalm 16

An inscription by David.

¹ Guard me, please, O Jehovah,
For in You, I've put all my hope.
² I've said to Jehovah, 'You are my Lord,
And other than You, I have nothing that's good.'
³ The holy in His land are in awe of the Lord,
As are those who willingly serve Him.
⁴ Yet, there are many who give in to weakness,
And hurry to search for what's bad.

With such ones, I'll never gather for blood,
Or mention their names with my lips.

⁵ O Jehovah;

You're my inheritance and the share in my cup,
For You've given me back that which was mine.

⁶ My borders have fallen across the best parts,
And upon the choicest of portions.

⁷ So I'll praise Jehovah who gives me direction,
And corrects my kidneys at night.

⁸ For I see that Jehovah is always beside me...
He's at my right hand, so I'll never fall.

⁹ For this, my heart will always be glad,
And my tongue will speak praises of Him.

Upon Him, my flesh camps in hope;

¹⁰ For He won't abandon my soul in the grave,
Nor will His holy one see corruption.

¹¹ The ways of life, He has shown me,
And His face has filled me with joy.

Therefore, to my delight;
I'll sit in perfection at His right hand.

Psalm 17

A prayer of David.

¹ Listen, O Lord, to my cries,
And pay attention to the things that I beg.
Please give notice my prayers;
For my words are not being spoken
With lips that have tried to deceive.

² In Your presence, may my judgment be given,
And may Your eyes look upon me in fairness.

³ For You've tried my heart in Your visits at night...
You've [tried] me by fire and found nothing
To prevent me from speaking [to You].

⁴ Concerning the hard ways of men;
Your lips have been my protection.

⁵ Into Your ways, You've molded my steps,
So my feet may never be caught in a snare.

⁶ I called out to You and You heard me, O God;
You've listened to my words with Your ears.

⁷ O You who [bring us] salvation;
Show the wonders of Your mercies,
To those who put faith in Your right hand.

⁸ Guard me like the pupil of Your eye...
Take me under Your wings,
And there, provide a refuge for me.

⁹ From the faces of the Godless, protect me...
From those who are sending misery.
For my enemies have me surrounded,
¹⁰ And they speak with mouths filled with pride,
As they are wrapped in their fat.

¹¹ They've driven me out and they have me surrounded...
Their eyes have plans to cut me to the ground.
¹² They treat me like a lion they've prepared for the hunt...
As a cub that must now run and hide.

¹³ So, please arise, O Jehovah;
Cut them off and then knock them down!
With Your sword, save my soul from the godless...
¹⁴ Use Your hand to destroy those who hate me.
Yes, cut their bodies to pieces,
And leave them there on the ground!

But, fill [righteous] bellies with good things,
And provide for their children,
Then give what is left to their babies.

¹⁵ May Your righteous one be seen once again,
And may I be filled with Your glory.

Psalm 18

To the director; A Psalm of Jehovah's servant David, which he sang to the Lord on the day that God rescued him from his enemies and from the hands of Saul.

¹ O Jehovah;
I'll prove that I love You with all my might,
² For to me, my Lord is so real...
Yes, You are my refuge and savior.

My helper is God, and in Him I'll trust...
³ He's my defender and protector,
And the trumpet of my salvation.

³ In praise, I'll call to Jehovah,
And from my enemies, I will be saved.

⁴ By the pangs of death, I once was surrounded...
I was being attacked by floods of the lawless.
⁵ Of the place of the dead, I was in fear,
As I was expecting death's snares.

⁶ Then in my distress, I called to my God.
I shouted, and He heard me, there in His Home...
My cries to Him reached His ears.

⁷ Then the ground trembled and shook,
And foundations of mountains were disturbed,
As the rage of my God rumbled against them.

⁸ Yes, from the smoke of His rage,
And from the fire that was coming from Him,
Coals ignited around Him.

⁹ Then He leaned and came down from the heavens,
As darkness was under His feet.

¹⁰ He arrived riding on cherubs,
With their wings spread out on the winds.

¹¹ For concealment, He made all things dark;
For, He was wrapped in a tent of dark fog.

¹² The radiance of His presence was covered by clouds...
As well as by hail and by fire.

¹³ Jehovah thundered from out of the sky,
And the Most High spoke with His voice.

¹⁴ He shot His arrows all around them,
And with lightning, He then filled the skies.

¹⁵ The sources of water were opened,
And the foundations of homes were exposed.

O Jehovah, this came from Your scolding...
From the blast of the Spirit of Your rage.

¹⁶ Down from the heights, He then came...
As He grabbed me and took me away from the floods.

¹⁷ From the mighty, He came down and saved me...
From those stronger than me, who detest me.

¹⁸ They opposed me during bad days,
But Jehovah became my support.

¹⁹ He then carried me to a [safe] place...
Because He chose me, He saved me!

²⁰ According to my righteous ways,
The Lord will provide my reward...
Yes, for clean hands, He'll repay me,

²¹ Since I have guarded His ways...
Unlike the irreverent, I've never left God.

²² His decisions are all here before me,
And from His Laws, I've never departed.

²³ So flawlessly, I'll stand here before Him,
As I guard against all Law breaking.

²⁴ Then, Jehovah will repay me for my righteous ways,
Since His eyes have seen that my hands have been clean.

²⁵ We must be holy to the holy,
And blameless to those free from blame.

²⁶ Then, among the elect we'll be chosen,
But we'll be turned away if we're crooked.

²⁷ Your people must save all the humble,
And humble the eyes of the proud!

²⁸ Light my lamp, O Jehovah my God...
Please light my way in the darkness.

²⁹ From bands of marauders, You'll save me...
By my God, I'll pass over walls.

³⁰ The ways of my God are all flawless,
And His words have been tried by fire.
He's the defender of those who put faith in Him;

³¹ So, who other is God than Jehovah...
Can any god be compared to our God?

³² He's the God who wrapped me in power,
And directs me in flawless ways.

³³ He's made my feet firm like those of a stag,
And He's lifted me into the heights.

³⁴ He has taught the ways of war to my hands,
And turned my arms into bows made of brass.

³⁵ You've prepared a shield to protect me;
You've taken me in Your right hand,
And taught me with Your instructions;
So Your guidance will allos me to stand 'til the end.

³⁶ You've widened the path underneath me,
And You've given me strength.

³⁷ So I'll chase my enemies and catch them,
And not return 'til I've won.

³⁸ I'll squeeze them until they're unable to stand,
And at my feet, they have fallen.

³⁹ You've wrapped me in the power of war;
You've bound my enemies, both hand and foot.

⁴⁰ You've shown me the backs of opposers,
And destroyed all those who detest me.

⁴¹ They shouted, but no one could save them;
They called to their Lord, but he didn't hear.

⁴² So I'll grind them to powder and throw them away,
Like dust in the squares that's blown in the wind.

⁴³ You'll rescue me from their disputes,
And place me as the head over nations.
Unknown peoples will serve me...

⁴⁴ They'll hear my voice and obey me.
And those sons of foreigners who are telling lies,
⁴⁵ Will grow old and lame in their paths.

⁴⁶ Jehovah lives, so may [He] be praised!
May [the Name] of the God who saves me be raised...

⁴⁷ The God who handles my vengeance,
And makes all the peoples submit.
⁴⁸ From all my enemies, He's saved me...
Yes, those who've attacked and opposed me.
You've raised me above the unrighteous...
You've rushed to my aid and You've saved me.
⁴⁹ So I'll praise You before all the nations;
O Jehovah, I'll strum to Your Name.

⁵⁰ For You've shown all the ways that You save the king...
You've shown mercy upon Your anointed...
To David and his seed through the ages.

Psalm 19

For the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ The heavens describe the glory of God,
And space tells of what He has made with His hands.
² Day after day, His words bubble up,
And night after night, there's more knowledge.
³ For there's neither speaking nor words,
And you can't hear the sounds of their voices.
⁴ But throughout the earth their knell has gone out,
And the words have reached to the ends of the man's home,
That He's pitched His Tent on the sun!
⁵ Like a groom coming out on his [wedding night],
He shouts like the mighty in His journey.
⁶ He leaves from one end of the sky,
And returns from the other side of the heavens.
So, none can hide from His heat.
⁷ The Law of Jehovah is perfect,
And it brings changes to lives!
What God says can always be trusted,
And to even the young, it brings wisdom.
⁸ Jehovah's rules are all straight,
And they bring joy to the heart.
The Commandments of the Lord radiate,
Providing light for everyone's eyes.
⁹ The fear of Jehovah is pure;
It lasts through the age and through ages of ages.
The judgments of the Lord are all true;
And they bring equal justice.
¹⁰ More precious than gold or gems are [His Laws],
And they're sweeter than honey in its comb.

¹¹ For, when His servants obey them,
They receive grand rewards.
¹² Yet, who is aware of all his own sins?
So from sins that are hidden, please cleanse me.
¹³ From foreign peoples, protect me;
For, if they cannot control me,
I'll be unblemished and free of great sins.
¹⁴ Then, good prophecies will flow from my mouth,
And the thoughts in my heart will be of the Lord;
For, He is always my helper.

Psalm 20

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ In bad times, turn to Jehovah.
Let the Name of Jacob's God be your shield.
² For, from His Holy Place, He will send help...
He'll send you assistance from Zion.
³ May He remember what you've sacrificed...
Yes, all of your fattened burnt offerings.
⁴ May God give you the things your hearts crave,
And fulfill whatever you've planned.
⁵ Then each one will shout about how He has saved them,
And praise the Name of our God...
May Jehovah grant you all that you ask.
⁶ Now I've [seen] Jehovah's salvation;
For, from His holy place in the heavens,
He has heard His anointed,
And He has it all in control.
Yes, with His right hand, He'll save us
⁷ From attacks by chariots and horsemen.
For, when I called on the Name of [my] God,
⁸ They fell and were bound hand and foot...
Though we arose and stood firm.
⁹ O Jehovah; please save the king,
And pay close attention when we're calling to You.

Psalm 21

A Psalm of David.

¹ O Jehovah;
The king gladly submits to Your might,
And for Your salvation, he cries out in joy.
² You have given him all that his heart desires,
And provided all of the things that he asked.

³ Why, even before he had asked,
You [poured] great blessings upon him,
And placed a gemmed crown on his head.

⁴ When he asked for life, You gave him long days,
Into the ages of ages.

⁵ Through Your salvation, You glorified him,
And laid gracious majesty upon him.

⁶ Through the age, You have blessed him,
And made him glad with the joy of Your face.

⁷ The king has put his hope in the Lord,
And he trusts in the mercy that comes from above.

⁸ So, may his enemies be found in Your hands;
May those who hate You be grabbed from Your right,
⁹ And in Your Day, be thrown in an oven.

In Your rage, please send them disturbance,
And then destroy them in fire.

¹⁰ Destroy their fruit from the earth,
And their seed from among sons of men.

¹¹ For, their purpose toward You was just to do bad,
And they argued over plans unfulfilled.

¹² So, throw them away with Your garbage,
And prepare their faces for this.

¹³ May Your might be exalted, O Lord,
Then we'll sing and strum about Your mighty deeds.

Psalm 22

To the director; for help in the early morning. A Psalm of David.

¹ O God, my God, please listen to me!
Why have I been abandoned by You?
Are the words about all my errors,
Keeping me from Your salvation?

² For, all day long, I call out to You;
But, my God, You don't listen;
So, don't think that I'm thoughtless at night.

³ You dwell within Your Holy Place,
As the One who sends IsraEl blessings.

⁴ In You, our fathers put faith,
And You brought them salvation.

⁵ They called out to You as their only hope,
And they were never disgraced.

⁶ But, [men think of me] as a worm, not a man...
I'm the scorn and contempt of my people.

⁷ Those who see me [are laughing]...

They're shaking their heads and they say:

⁸ 'He puts his faith in Jehovah;

So if God wants him, let Him come down and save him!'

⁹ You who pulled me from [my mother's] womb...

And You were my hope when I sucked at her breasts.

¹⁰ By You, I was thrust from the womb...

And from the belly of my mother, You've been my God.

¹¹ So don't leave me now that trouble is near,

For, no one else will come to my aid.

¹² I'm surrounded by great herds of cattle,

And encircled by mighty bulls.

¹³ Like lions, against me, they've opened their mouths...

Like those who roar and drag off [their prey].

¹⁴ My bones have become just like water,

And my heart in my chest has melted like wax.

¹⁵ My strength has dried out like a clay pot,

And my tongue is stuck to my throat;

For to the dust of death, You have led me.

¹⁶ Many dogs now have me surrounded,

And the wicked have gathered against me.

They're cutting into my hands and my feet,

¹⁷ And they count all my bones as they watch me and think.

¹⁸ They've divided my garments among them,

And thrown dice for the clothes that I wear.

¹⁹ O Jehovah;

Your help is not far away,

For You'll notice and come to my aid.

²⁰ Please rescue my soul from the broadsword...

[Your] one-and-only from the hands of the dogs!

²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion;

On rhinoceros horns, May I not be disgraced.

²² Then I'll speak of Your fame to my brothers,

And among the gathering, I'll praise You.

²³ All you who fear Him; Give praise to Jah!

Yes, glorify Him, seed of Jacob,

And seed of IsraEl, show that you fear Him!

²⁴ For He hasn't looked on you in contempt,

And He hasn't loathed the prayers of your poor...

Nor from me, has He turned His face,

For I called out Him and He listened!

²⁵ So, before the gathering, I'll praise Him,

And before them all, make confessions.

I'll also pay all my vows,

In the presence of those who respect Him.

²⁶ Then the stomachs of the poor will be filled once again.
And those who are seeking Jehovah,
Will offer Him praise from their hearts,
Through the age and through ages of ages.

²⁷ Turn back to Him... remember Jehovah,
All you to the ends of the earth.
All the families of the nations should bow before Him,
²⁸ For the right to rule is just His alone.

He is the [true] ruler of all the nations,
²⁹ And He would feed all the mighty on earth,
If they would bow down before Him,
[Instead of] going into the ground.

So, with my whole soul, I'm living for Him,
³⁰ And my seed will serve Him alone.
They'll proclaim Him to future generations,
³¹ And they'll speak of His justice to those not yet born.

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

¹ Since Jehovah's my light and my Savior,
who should I ever fear?
Since the Lord watches over my life,
Who should make me feel timid?

² So when those who bring evil approach me,
And when enemies seek to devour my flesh,
They will be weakened and fall.

³ And if they should rise up against me,
My heart will never know fear.
So if they should approach me in war,
I will always have hope.

⁴ O Lord, pay them back for the things that they do,
According to the bad that they practice.
For I know that You'll always be with me,
And find comfort in Your scepter and staff.

⁵ He hides me inside of His Tent;
He conceals me in my bad days;
And He lifts me high on a rock.
My head, He's anointed with oil,
And His excellent cup makes me high.

⁶ Your mercies have pursued me all through my life,
So I'll dwell in the House of Jehovah,

Throughout the rest of my days.

Psalm 24

A Psalm of David [to be sung] on the Sabbath.

- ¹ The land and its goodness belongs to the Lord...
The arrangement and all who live in it.
- ² For, He's the One who prepared all its rivers,
And He's the One who founded the seas.
- ³ Who can ascend the mountain of God;
Who can stand in His Holy Place?
- ⁴ Just those with innocent hands,
And those with hearts that are pure...
Who've not chosen what's foolish for their souls,
And who've not sworn what's bad against neighbors.
- ⁵ For, only these will be blest by the Lord,
And see charity from their Savior, God.
- ⁶ This generation is seeking Jehovah;
They're seeking the face of Jacob's God.
- ⁷ So open the gates of your rulers...
Open the gates of the ages,
That your glorious King may now enter.
- ⁸ Who is this glorious King?
It is the Almighty Jehovah...
The dynamic Lord with the power of war.
- ⁹ Yes, open the gates of your rulers...
Open the gates of the ages,
So your glorious King may now enter.
- ¹⁰ And who is this glorious King?
Jehovah armies is that glorious King.

Psalm 25

A Psalm of David.

- ¹ O Jehovah;
To You, I've lifted my soul;
- ² For You are my God to whom I submit.
So through the age, may I not be disgraced,
Nor may my enemies make sport of me.
- ³ Don't bring disgrace to those clinging to You,
But shame those who rebel without cause.
- ⁴ O Jehovah;
You have shown me Your ways,
And now teach me to walk in Your paths!
- ⁵ Guide me in Your ways of truth,

And teach me that You're My Savior and God;
For I've waited on You all my days.

⁶ Remember Your compassions, O Lord,
And the mercy You've shown through the ages.

⁷ Please overlook the sins of my youth...
Forget the ignorant things that I've done.
Speak to Yourself about mercy for me...
Be kind to me, O Jehovah!

⁸ Jehovah is upright and kind,
But He upholds His Laws against sinners.

⁹ He guides the meek ones toward justice,
And teaches the gentle His ways.

¹⁰ Merciful are all [God's] ways,
And to those hearing His words, He sends truth...
And to those [who honor] His Sacred Agreement.

¹¹ Because of Your Name, O Jehovah,
Please cover all of my sins!

¹² Who's the man that's fearing Jehovah?
He'll give him His laws in his chosen path.

¹³ Then his soul will lodge among good things,
And his seed will inherit the land.

¹⁴ For Jehovah's a fort to all those who fear Him,
And with them, He has made an Agreement.

¹⁵ My eyes always look to Jehovah,
For He pulls the snares away from my feet.

¹⁶ O look upon me and have mercy,
For I am a poor only child,

¹⁷ Whose pain of heart keeps on growing.

So, lead me toward the things that I need...

¹⁸ Notice my humiliation;
See what I've done and forgive all my sins!

¹⁹ My enemies keep on increasing,
And the unrighteous all hate and detest me.

²⁰ So, guard my life and please save me;
May I not be disgraced, for I'm trusting in You.

²¹ The guileless and upright have stuck close to me,
Because I'm sticking by You, O [my God].

²² So please pay our ransom, IsraEl's God,
During our times of distress.

Psalm 26

A Psalm of David.

¹ O God; please send me justice!
For the ways that I've walked are free from all blame,
And I've put my trust in the Lord.

² O Jehovah; I will not weaken!
So, put me to the test and try me...
Set my heart and my kidneys on fire!

³ Before my eyes are Your mercies,
And I'm very pleased with Your truths.

⁴ I don't sit in high courts among fools,
Nor do I hang out with those who break laws.

⁵ I've detested the gatherings of those who are bad,
And with the irreverent, I've never stayed.

⁶ In innocence, I've washed my hands,
As I've walked 'round Your Altar, O Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice as I'm singing Your praises,
And talking about all Your wonders.

⁸ O Jehovah;
The beauty of Your House, I have loved;
That place where You Tent in glory.

⁹ Don't destroy my soul along with the Godless,
Nor with men of blood, bring an end to my life...

¹⁰ Those whose hands are filled with their lawless ways,
And who, with their right hands, take bribes.

¹¹ Ransom me, for I'm without guilt...
Please show mercy upon me!

¹² For with my feet, I've walked a straight path,
And among the congregation, I've praised You, O Lord.

Psalm 27

A Psalm of David before his anointing.

¹ Jehovah's my Light and my Savior,
So of whom have I reason to fear?
The Lord is my life's defender;
So, before whom, should I ever be shy?

² For those who attacked to bring evil,
And wished to devour my flesh
(Those enemies of mine who've oppressed me),
Have now become weak and have fallen.

³ Should they set their camps up before me,
And should they attack me in war;
My hope is that my heart won't show fear.

⁴ One thing I've asked of Jehovah
(Yes, this is what I shall seek),

Is to dwell in His House all the days of my life,
Where I may view the delights of the Lord,
And visit His Most Holy Place.

⁵ For whenever evil arrives,
He hides me inside of His Tent,
And during bad days, He's my shelter.
Within His Tent, He conceals me,
And He lifts me high on a rock.

⁶ For look... He has lifted my head,
Higher than those of my enemies!
So around His Tent, I've walked and brought gifts...
A sacrifice of praise, I have offered,
And I've sung and strummed to Jehovah!

⁷ I've said to You in my heart,
'I will always search for the Lord!'

⁸ Yes, my heart is saying to You,
And I will search for Jehovah! My face will always be searching for You,
And Your face, I will always be seeking.

⁹ So don't turn Your face from me, O my God...
Don't turn from Your servant in anger;
Rather, just be my helper!
Don't ever curse me or send me away...
Don't leave me and don't overlook me.
O God, may You be my Savior!

¹⁰ Though my father and mother have left me;
Jehovah chose me as His own.

¹¹ So Lord; Put Your ways in my heart,
And because of my enemies, straighten my paths.

¹² Don't hand me to those who've oppressed me;
For, they have witnessed against me and lied...
And justice has lied to herself.

¹³ I trust that I'll get what's good from the Lord,
While I'm still in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Thus, I'll wait on Jehovah and act like a man...
I'll wait on the Lord who makes my heart strong!

Psalm 28

A Psalm of David.

¹ I'll call out to You, O Jehovah...
My God, I won't remain silent;
So, don't be silent with me,
Or make me like those who enter the pit.

² Listen, O Lord, to my voice as I beg,
And raise my arms toward Your Temple.

³ Don't draw me along with the sinners,
Nor destroy me with the unjust.
For though they speak peace to their neighbors,
Inside their hearts, there is evil.

⁴ O Jehovah;
Repay them for the bad things they do,
And for all of their wicked deeds.
Return upon them the things they have done...
Give them a just compensation!

⁵ O Jehovah;
They don't notice the things that You've done...
All the works that You've done with Your hands.
So You will wipe them away,
And never rebuild them again.

⁶ Praise Jehovah, for He's heard my prayer...
⁷ He's my help and defender,
And in Him, my heart has put hope.
Because He's helped me, my flesh has done well,
So to Him, I will always sing praises.

⁸ Jehovah's the fort of His people...
His anointed's Defender and Savior.
⁹ So upon Your inheritance, pour blessings,
And bring salvation to Your people...
Through the ages, tend them and lift them.

Psalm 29

A Psalm of David for when the Sacred Tent was being transported.

¹ O sons of God;
To the Lord, you should bring sacrifices...
The offspring of rams, offer to God.
To Jehovah, offer glory and honor...
² [Yes, speak] of His Glorious Name,
And bow to Him in His courtyard.

³ His voice is over the waters...
The glory of God causes thunder,
And He is [over the rain].

⁴ The voice of Jehovah is strong,
And of His majesty, it speaks.

⁵ The voice of Jehovah breaks [trees]...
Even Lebanon's cedars.

⁶ He thins them out like Lebanon's calves...
Or as rhinoceros young.

⁷ Like [lightning], the voice of Jehovah cuts through...

⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the desert.
The Deserts of Kadesh tremble before Him,
⁹ For, with His voice He fashioned the hinds.
He tears down all sacred poles,
Since those who would glorify Him,
Know that they should come to His [Temple].
¹⁰ Jehovah brings calmness to storms,
And He seats His king through the ages.
¹¹ Jehovah shows His strength for His people;
Our Lord will bless them with peace.

Psalm 30

A Psalm for the dedication of David's palace.

¹ O Jehovah;
I praise You for lifting me high,
And not bringing my enemies joy.
² Yes, I called out to You, O my God,
And You sent healing to me.
³ O Jehovah;
You saved my life from the grave...
From those going down to the pit.
⁴ So you holy ones, play music to Him...
Remember and acknowledge His pureness.
⁵ For, while there is wrath in His rage,
There's also life in His Will.
And though weeping may come in the evening,
In the morning, there'll be great rejoicing.
⁶ In prosperous times, I once said:
'Through the ages, no way will I [stumble].'
⁷ O Jehovah;
By Your Will, my [power] was established.
But from me, You then turned away,
And I became very disturbed.
⁸ So, O Lord, I cried out to You...
Before my God, I was begging.
⁹ What value has my blood if I die,
And then rot away under the ground?
Will there be knowledge of You in the dust,
And will dirt testify to Your trueness?
¹⁰ Jehovah then heard and showed mercy on me...
He was my helper [once more].
¹¹ So my [heart] that once beat in fear,
Has now returned to rejoicing.

¹² You tore off my sackcloth and wrapped me in joy,
So I'll strum to You in my glory.
And O Jehovah, my God;
There's no way that I'll ever be angry [with You],
And through the age, Your praises, I'll sing.

Psalm 31

To the director; A Psalm of David about his change of state.

¹ In You, O Jehovah, I've put all my hope;
And may I not be disgraced through the age.

Rescue me in Your justice,
And take me away from this place.

² Incline Your ear and listen to me...
Hurry and take me away!

Become to me a God of defense;
Make Your House a place of salvation.

³ You are my fort and safe haven,
So, for the sake of Your Name,
Please direct me and feed me.

⁴ O lead me away from their snares;
For, You're my defender, Jehovah.

⁵ Into Your hands, I've entrusted my spirit,
And You've paid my ransom, O God of truth.

⁶ You've detested those who are foolish,
So, they are just wasting their time.
But I'm putting my trust in Jehovah.

⁷ So I'll shout in praise and bask in Your mercy;
For You've seen my humiliation,
And witnessed distress in my life.

⁸ Then You saved me from my enemies' hands,
And set my feet in a [safe] place.

⁹ So show mercy on me, O Jehovah,
For, I am in great distress.
My eyes are disturbed and enraged,
As is my belly and soul.

¹⁰ My life has been wasted in grief,
And through most of my years, I've been moaning.
My strength has been weakened by poorness,
And there is pain in all of my bones.

¹¹ I'm the scorn of my enemies,
And I'm even scorned by my neighbors.
So, those who know me now fear me,
And the rest have all run away.

¹² I'm forgotten like one of the dead,
And as a shattered pot, is my heart.
¹³ I've heard the complaints of those traveling about,
As they've gather against me.

They're meeting together to kill me,
¹⁴ But I've put my trust in Jehovah.
I've said to You, ¹⁵ 'You are my God,
And I've left my [life] in your hands.'

Please rescue me from my enemies' hands,
And from all who've been chasing me.
¹⁶ Please show Your face to your servant...
In Your great mercy, please save me!

¹⁷ O Jehovah;
Don't let me meet with disgrace,
For, I am calling to You.
May all the godless be shamed,
And then be led to their graves.

¹⁸ May the lips of deceivers be speechless...
Those condemning the just,
In contempt and in proud, lawless ways.

¹⁹ How kind are Your ways, O Jehovah,
Which are hidden from those who don't fear You.
Before all, You send aid to the faithful.

²⁰ Within Your face, You conceal them,
From the disturbance of those who are evil.
You shelter them inside Your Tent,
Away from all scolding tongues.

²¹ Praise Jehovah for His mercy,
And for the miraculous things that [He brings],
To a city that's under attack.

²² I said, when I saw things had changed:
'He's thrown me away from His eyes.'
But then, You listened to me,
And You heard what I said when I called out to You.

²³ So, love Jehovah, you holy ones;
For trueness is required by our God.
And He will send retribution,
To those who have too much pride.
Then act like men and strengthen your hearts,
All you who have faith in Jehovah!

Psalm 32

A prayer of David for understanding.

¹ Blest are those He forgives for their lawless ways,
And those whose sins He has covered.
² Blest are those in whom He doesn't find sin,
Or found treacherous words in their mouths.
³ I've become more settled as my bones have aged...
I no longer cry out all day.
⁴ For Your hand pressed upon me both day and night,
And in misery I writhed as though run through by thorns.
⁵ My lawless deeds, I've admitted to You,
And my sins, I've not tried to hide.
I've openly declared to the Lord,
All of my lawless ways,
And You forgave the godless thoughts in my heart.
⁶ For this, the holy should pray at right times,
So the flood will never approach them:
⁷ 'You're my refuge from the troubles I face,
And You have ransomed my soul,
From those who had me surrounded.'
⁸ [And in response, God replied]:
'I will send understanding to you...
I will teach you the ways you should go,
And always watch over you.
⁹ So, don't act like horses or mules,
Who have to be bridled and don't understand...
And whose jaws must be squeezed to approach Me.'
¹⁰ Sinners are whipped many times,
But mercy surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
¹¹ So, you should find joy in Jehovah;
Shout in joy about Him, you righteous,
And boast of Him from you hearts.

Psalm 33

A Psalm of David.

¹ You righteous; rejoice in Jehovah!
Because He blesses the upright.
² Play to Jehovah on harps;
Strum to Him on your lutes of ten strings.
³ Then sing to Him, a new song...
Play, shout loudly, and cheer!
⁴ The words of Jehovah are righteous,
So, trust in the things that He does.
⁵ For our God loves charity and fairness,
And the earth is filled with His mercy.

⁶ By the Word of Jehovah, the skies came to be,
And the Breath from His mouth formed their powers.
⁷ As in a leather bag, He pulled them together,
And in treasuries of the deep, He put water.
⁸ So fear Jehovah, earth dwellers;
Before Him let all stand in awe.
⁹ For He just spoke and it was created...
He gave the order and it came to be.
¹⁰ He wipes away plans of nations...
He annuls the devices and plots of their kings.
¹¹ Jehovah's Will lasts through the ages;
From generation to generation are the things in His heart.
¹² Blest is the nation whose God is Jehovah...
Those whom He's chosen to inherit.
¹³ From the heavens, Jehovah looks down,
And He watches the things that sons of men do.
¹⁴ In the home that He has prepared,
He watches those dwelling on earth.
¹⁵ He's the One who fashioned their hearts,
And then He watches the things that they do.
¹⁶ So, Kings won't be saved by large armies,
And giants won't be saved by their strength.
¹⁷ It's foolish to look to a horse for salvation;
Since, even with his strength, you can lose.
¹⁸ {Look!} Jehovah watches all those who fear Him...
Those who put faith in His mercy.
¹⁹ Only He can save their lives from destruction,
And feed them in times of great famine.
²⁰ So, with our whole lives, we must wait on the Lord,
For He's our defender and helper.
²¹ Take joy in Him with your whole hearts,
And trust in His Holy Name.
²² O bring us Your mercy, Jehovah;
For in You, we are putting our faith.

Psalm 34

A Psalm of David that speaks of the time his view of Abimelech changed and how it caused him to send him away.

¹ Through the age, I'll give praise to Jehovah...
His praises will stay in my mouth.
² I'll praise the Lord with my life;
So listen, you meek and be glad.
³ Glorify Jehovah with me...
Let's praise His great Name together.

⁴ I searched for the Lord and He heard me...
He rescued me during my travels.
⁵ So, come to Him... be enlightened,
And your faces will never be shamed.
⁶ A poor man once called to God and He heard,
Then He rescued him from his problems.
⁷ God's messengers camped all around him,
And He saved this man who put fear in His Name.
⁸ Taste and see that our God is good,
For those trusting in Him will always be blest!
⁹ Yes, fear Jehovah, His holy ones;
For those fearing Him will lack nothing.
¹⁰ Though the rich may go hungry and poor,
Those seeking the Lord won't lack for what's good.
¹¹ Come to me, children, then listen,
As I teach you the fear of Jehovah!
¹² Who is the man that doesn't want life,
Or to see better days?
¹³ Remove from your tongue all that's evil...
Take treachery away from your lips...
¹⁴ Turn away from what's bad and do good...
Search for peace and pursue it!
¹⁵ For, Jehovah keeps His eyes on the righteous,
And His ears hear the things that they ask.
¹⁶ But the face of Jehovah opposes the bad,
And He'll wipe their memory out of the land.
¹⁷ The righteous called out and God heard them,
Then He rescued them from their problems.
¹⁸ God's near to those who have broken hearts,
And those humble in spirit, He rescues.
¹⁹ Though the righteous will have many problems,
God can save them from all.
²⁰ For, Jehovah watches over their bones,
And not a single one will be broken.
²¹ In sadness, the sinners will come to their end,
And those hating the righteous will be condemned.
²² But Jehovah will ransom the lives of His servants,
And no way will He harm those who trust Him.

Psalm 35

A Psalm of David.

¹ O Jehovah;
Judge those who are doing me wrong...

Wage war on those waging war!
² Take up Your weapons and shield, O my God;
Arise and come to my aid!

³ Swing Your sword at those who pursue me...
Say You'll deliver my soul!

⁴ May those seeking my life feel shame and remorse...
May those wishing me bad retreat in disgrace.

⁵ May they become as dust in the wind...
May God's messengers squeeze them all dry.

⁶ May their road become slippery and dark,
And may they be chased by God's angels.

⁷ Though I have done them no wrong,
Snares, they have hidden before me,
And about my soul, they speak badly.

⁸ So, let them be caught in snares they can't see...
May the snares that they hunt with, catch them...
Into the traps that they set, may they fall.

⁹ I'll praise Jehovah with my whole soul...
Of His salvation, I'll shout.

¹⁰ With my bones, I'll say to Jehovah:
'O Lord, there's no one else like You!
For You rescue the poor with a hand that is greater,
Than those who tear the needy to shreds.

¹¹ 'For they sent lying witnesses against me,
And asked questions that I didn't understand.

¹² They've repaid me with bad for the good things I've done,
And left my soul without seed.

¹³ 'Because of the troubles they've caused me,
I've had to wear sackcloth and fast.
So I've prayed that I might be restored.

¹⁴ 'As neighbors and brothers, they once were so kind;
So in mourning and sadness, I've humbled my soul.

¹⁵ But they happily gathered against me,
And they weren't sad when they cut me with whips.

¹⁶ 'They tried me and then they made fun...
Against me, they were grinding their teeth.

¹⁷ O Jehovah;
How long will You let this continue?
Rescue my soul from their evil plans!

¹⁸ [Then God replied:}
'O My only begotten;
From those lions, I'm coming to save you.
Then before the assembly, I'll praise you...

Before those bad ones, I'll raise you!

¹⁹ So, may those who hate me unjustly,
Not [be allowed to] rejoice...
Those who detest me without any charge...
Those who shun me with their eyes.

²⁰ Though to me, they once spoke of peace,
In anger and treachery, they've plotted.
²¹ They've opened their mouths against me and said:
'Well done... yes, very well done.
And now we've seen it done with our eyes.'

²² O Jehovah; You've witnessed it all!
So, don't remain silent or leave me.
²³ Awaken, O Lord... pay attention!
Take notice of my cause, O my God.

²⁴ Judge me, O Lord, and bring justice...
My God, don't let them rejoice!
²⁵ Don't allow them to say of my soul in their hearts,
'Well done... yes, very well done.'
And please don't allow them to say,
'We have swallowed him down!'

²⁶ May those who've rejoiced at my harm feel ashamed,
And let those who witnessed against me feel sad,
²⁷ As those who sought justice are joyful.
Then, may they cry, 'Praise Jehovah,
For bringing peace to His servant!'
²⁸ Then I'll use my tongue to sing of Your justice,
And I'll praise You throughout the rest of my days.

Psalm 36

To the director; of the servant of Jehovah, David.

¹ About his sins, the lawbreaker says,
'As I see it, there's no God to fear.'
² So before Him, he acts wickedly...
Yet, [God] will expose his lawbreaking.
³ Their mouths speak of doing treacherous things,
And about breaking laws,
Since they have no desire to know what is good.
⁴ They dream of crimes as they lie in their beds,
And do nothing at all that's worthwhile,
For they haven't learned to hate what is bad.
⁵ O Jehovah, who lives in the heavens;
Your mercy and truth ascends to the clouds.
⁶ Your justice is like the mountain of God,

But Your judgments are like an abyss,
Which can save both men and their cattle.

⁷ O God;
There are many ways that Your mercies are seen.
And in the protection of Your wings,
The sons of men put their hope.

⁸ They feast on the abundance from Your house,
And delight them with the water from streams.

⁹ For the springs of life come from You,
And from Your light, we see light.

¹⁰ So, send mercy to all those who know You,
And give justice to those with straight hearts.

¹¹ May I not be kicked by the feet of the proud,
Nor may the hands of sinners ever shake me.

¹² May all those who work at lawlessness fall,
Rejected and unable to stand.

Psalm 37

A Psalm of David.

¹ Never be jealous of the wicked,
Nor envy those who break laws.

² For like grass, they'll quickly be dried,
And wilt away like young shoots.

³ Rather, put your hope in Jehovah,
And act in very kind ways.

If you live off the ground, its riches will serve you,

⁴ And you'll find delight in Jehovah.
For He'll give you all that your hearts may desire.

⁵ Open your ways to Jehovah;
Yes, trust in Him, and He'll act.

⁶ He'll shine a light on your righteous deeds,
And brighten them as though it were noon.

⁷ Yes, put your trust in Jehovah,
And to Him, you must always pray.
Don't envy those who prosper from crime,
⁸ And don't be angry... abandon your rage!

Don't let jealousy move you to do wicked things,
⁹ For the wicked will soon be destroyed,
While those waiting on Jehovah will inherit the land.

¹⁰ Soon the sinners will all be gone...
You'll look where he was and not find him.

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land,
And find great delight in the abundance of peace.

¹² Sinners keep their eyes on the righteous,
And grind their teeth when they see them.
¹³ But at them, Jehovah is laughing,
For He sees what will happen to them in His Day.

¹⁴ Sinners have unsheathed their swords,
And stretched their bows very tight,
To attack the needy and poor,
And to kill all those with straight hearts.
¹⁵ But, may their swords strike their own hearts,
And may their bows be broken to bits.

¹⁶ A little is better to the righteous,
Than great wealth is to sinners.
¹⁷ But the arms of sinners will be broken;
And the Lord will support all the just.

¹⁸ He knows the ways of the flawless,
And their inheritance will last through the ages.
¹⁹ They won't be disgraced in hard times,
And in days of famine, they will be filled.

²⁰ But the sinners will all be destroyed.
And then, those enemies of God,
Who think they're glorious and exalted,
Will pass away just like smoke.

²¹ The sinner borrows and doesn't repay,
But the righteous feel mercy and lend.
²² So, those who bless him will inherit the land,
While those who curse him will be wiped away.

²³ Jehovah straightens the footsteps of man,
And all should [walk in] His ways.

²⁴ Then, if you should fall, you won't break;
For the Lord will be holding your hand.

²⁵ I was once young and now I've grown old,
And I've not seen the righteous abandoned,
Or his seed ever begging for bread.

²⁶ For each day, he shows mercy and lends;
Thus his seed will always be blest.

²⁷ So, turn from evil... do good,
And live through the age of the ages!

²⁸ For Jehovah is a lover of justice,
And through ages, won't abandon His holy.
For the righteous will always be guarded,
As the lawless are driven away.

The seed of the Godless will perish;
²⁹ But the righteous will inherit [the] land,

And through ages of ages, they'll camp there.

³⁰ Mouths of the righteous think first and then speak...
They talk of fairness and justice.

³¹ And because God's Law is within their hearts,
They will not stumble and fall.

³² When the sinner thinks of the righteous,
He searches for ways to destroy them.

³³ But Jehovah won't abandon them into his hands,
Nor will He condemn them in judgment.

³⁴ Wait on Jehovah and follow His ways,
And you will inherit the land.

Then you will see the sinners destroyed,

³⁵ And they'll see you lifted high...
As high as Lebanon's cedars.

³⁶ I went to see, and look... he was not!
I searched in his place and he's gone!

³⁷ So, guard your innocence and honesty;
For, those who love peace are the ones who'll survive,

³⁸ While the lawless will all be destroyed,
Along with any godless who might still remain.

³⁹ For, Jehovah will save all the righteous;
And He'll be their defender when they are oppressed.

⁴⁰ The Lord will help them and save them;
He'll snatch them away from the sinners.

Yes, He will deliver and save them,
Because they've put faith in Him.

Psalm 38

A Psalm of David to be remembered on the Sabbath.

¹ O Jehovah;
Don't discipline me in Your rage,
Nor in anger, please don't correct me.

² For Your arrows have already struck me,
And Your hand has been heavy upon me.

³ My flesh has not healed from the rage of Your face,
And there's no peace in my bones because of my sins.

⁴ All my bad deeds hang over my head...
They oppress me and weigh me down.

⁵ The stripes of my foolishness fester and smell,

⁶ And in misery and sadness, I walk through the day.

⁷ My flanks have been covered by mocking,
And in my flesh, there's no healing.

⁸ I've been humbled and afflicted for my wicked ways.
So from the moaning in my heart, I have roared.

⁹ O Jehovah;

To stand before You, is all I desire,
So my moaning to You won't be hidden.

¹⁰ For my heart is disturbed and my strength is all gone...
Even my eyes do not work.

¹¹ My friends and neighbors oppose me...
They approach, but they stand at a distance.

¹² Those seeking my life and wishing me bad,
Speak foolishly throughout the whole day,
As they plan to deceive.

¹³ But, I pretend to not hear them,
As though I am someone who's deaf,
And like the mute, I don't open my mouth.

¹⁴ I became like a man with no hearing,
And with nothing to say in reply.

¹⁵ For in You, O Jehovah, I've put my trust...
And my God, I've hoped that You'd hear.

¹⁶ May my enemies not rejoice at my downfall...
May my legs not shake when they're plotting.'

¹⁷ I'm ready for all of their whips...
I'm prepared and ready to suffer.

¹⁸ I willingly admit to my lawless deeds,
And I'm anxious about all my sins.

¹⁹ My enemies have camped all around me,
As have those who hate me unjustly.

²⁰ They've repaid my good things with bad,
And lied when I was on trial.

²¹ So, do not leave me, Jehovah!
Yes, my God, don't desert me!

²² Hear my pleas for help, O my God;
O Jehovah, please save me!

Psalm 39

To the director; an ode of David to IdiThun.

¹ I promised to guard all my ways,
And not to sin with my tongue.
So I've put a lock on my mouth,
When sinners are standing before Me.

² Then, I became humble and mute,
And I spoke not even good words,

Yet, my pain still increased.

³ Then my heart became hot within me,
Burning away all my thoughts,
And my tongue spoke out and I said:

⁴ 'O Jehovah, show me my limits,
And the number of days I will live,
So I can see what I lack.

⁵ '{Look!}' The days of a palm, You've given to me;
Yet, I am nothing before You.
For, foolish are the ways of all men.'

⁶ When men travel, they may carry an idol;
For they trust in things that are foolish.
They may also carry their treasures along;
Yet they know not why they collect them.

⁷ But I believe that I can endure,
With just the aid of Jehovah.

⁸ So, please save me from my lawless ways,
And the scorn that fools have [piled upon] me.

⁹ I was mute and I wouldn't open my mouth,
For these trials have come from Jehovah.

¹⁰ But, please bring an end to the whippings,
For in Your mighty hands, I am failing.

¹¹ This correction is what You have sent me,
And You've disciplined me with the lawless.

Just like spiders, men's lives waste away,
And this is the folly of humans.

¹² So, hear my prayer, O Jehovah!
Give ear as I beg in my tears!

Please don't stay silent with me,
For, like my fathers, I've traveled with You!

¹³ Refresh me and spare me before I must leave...
Before I no longer exist.

Psalm 40

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ I've endured and waited on God;
Then He noticed and heard what I prayed.

² He led me from the misery of the pit...
From the mud and slime, He removed me.

Then He stood my feet on a rock,
And straightened the ways that I walk.

³ He put a new song in my mouth...
A sacred hymn to my God.

When they're afraid, many look to Jehovah.

⁴ And blest are those who trust in His Name...

Those who don't search for what's foolish,
And those who don't act in rash ways.

⁵ O Jehovah;

You've done such wonderful things...

Great and wondrous are Your ways, O my God,
For there are none who are equal to You!

So I'll speak out and tell of Your glorious ways,
And the unnumbered ways they keep growing.

⁶ Sacrifices and offerings, You didn't want,
And You did not seek whole burnt offerings,
Nor sacrifices for [the covering of] sins;
Yet, You prepared a body for me.

⁷ So I said, 'Look, I have come...

In the knob of the scroll it was written about me.

⁸ I've come to do Your Will, O my God;
For Your Law lies deep in my [heart].

⁹ I've announced the good news of [Your] righteous ways,
Among the great congregation...
O Lord, I haven't held back my lips!

¹⁰ I've not hidden Your righteous ways in my heart,
And I've told the truth about Your salvation...
I've not hidden Your mercy and truth,
Before the great congregation.'

¹¹ So, O Jehovah;

Please don't hide Your compassions from me...
May Your mercy and truth give me strength.

¹² Now, numerous bad things surround me,
For my lawless deeds overtook me,
And I'm no longer able to see.
They've multiplied like the hairs on my head,
And by my own heart, I'm abandoned.

¹³ So, think well of me and save me, O God...
O Jehovah, pay attention and help!

¹⁴ May those who are seeking my life
(Those who wish to lift it away),
Together, feel shame and disgrace.

May those who wish to do evil,
Feel shame and be forced to back off.

¹⁵ Let them feel their shame right away...
Those who are saying of me,
'Well done, yes very well done.'

¹⁶ O Jehovah;
May all those who seek You be happy
And may they start shouting in joy...
May all who love Your salvation,
Shout aloud, 'Praise Jehovah!'

¹⁷ I now find myself poor and in need,
So, don't forget me, my God.
Since You're my defender and helper,
Don't wait or delay, O [Jehovah]!

Psalm 41

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ Blest are those who pay attention,
To the needy and poor.
For God will save them when bad days arrive.

² May Jehovah bless them and guard them;
May He keep them alive on the ground...
And save them from their enemy's hands.

³ May God give them aid in their beds of grief,
And turn their beds when they're ill.

⁴ I said, 'O Lord, show mercy on me.
Heal my soul, for I've sinned against You,
⁵ And my enemies are saying bad things about me,
Asking, *When will he finally die?*'

⁶ Foolishness once came to see me,
And he spoke to me from his heart.
He also brought the lawless along,
And they all went outside to talk.

⁷ To each other, my enemies whispered,
And developed a plot [to destroy] me.
⁸ Their plan was something illegal...
They said, 'He'll go to bed but never arise.'

⁹ And a man with whom I had peace
(One upon whom I had always relied,
And one who ate bread at my table),
Made deceitful plans against me.

¹⁰ But You, O Lord, showed mercy on me.
You lifted me up and repaid them.

¹¹ By this, I knew that you [loved] me,
And my foes will not rejoice over me.

¹² You helped me because I'm not guilty,
And stood me strong before You through the age.

¹³ O Praise Jehovah, IsraEl's God,

Through the age and into the age of the ages... may it be so.

Psalm 42

To the director; the contemplation of the sons of KorAh.

¹ As a stag searches for springs of water,
That's how my heart longs for You, O my God...

² Yes, my soul thirsts for the mighty living God.
So, when may I come and stand before You?

³ My tears have become my bread day and night;
Each day they ask, 'So, where is your God?'

⁴ I think of such things and then,
I pour out my soul [before You].

I'll go to Your wonderful Tent...
I'll go to the House of my God.
I'll go shouting aloud and praising...
As though it were a great holiday.

⁵ O man within me; why are you so sad...
Why do you bother me so?
You must put your trust in your God...
Sing in praise of the ways that He saves!

⁶ O my God;
I am so bothered within,
And You are the reason for this.
In the land of the Jordan, I think about You,
Here on little Mount Herman.

⁷ Over the roar of the floods in the deep,
I cried out to You [in my fear];
For Your crests and Your waves have passed over me.

⁸ Each day, I speak to God of His mercy,
And at night, I pray that He'll bring it;
This God [who keeps watch on] my life.

⁹ I say to God, 'Since You are my shield,
Why do You overlook me...
Why must I always look downcast,
And have to squeeze past opposers?'

¹⁰ They berate me as they're breaking my bones,
And afflict me each day, as they ask:
'So now, where is your God?'

¹¹ O man within;
Why are you so dejected and sad,
And why do you bother me so?
Put your hope in Jehovah...

Praise your Savior and God!

Psalm 43

A Psalm of David.

¹ Judge me, O God... try my case,
Here in an unholy nation.
From the unjust and deceitful, please save me!

² Since You are my God and my fortress,
Why have you thrust me away...
Why must I be so downhearted,
And oppressed by my enemies?

³ Send Your light and truth as my guide,
From Your Tent and Your Holy Mountain.

⁴ Then I'll go to the Altar of God...
To the God of my youth who once brought me joy.

⁵ Why have You rejected my soul,
And allowed me to be so upset?
Yet, I'll put hope in my God,
And I will sing praises to Him...
Please rescue my soul, O my God!

Psalm 44

To the director; a Contemplation of the sons of KorAh.

¹ O God;
Our ears have all heard about it,
For our fathers told us about them...
Those deeds that You did in their days.

² How, with Your hand, You replanted nations,
And of how You also destroyed them...
How You oppressed them and then drove them out.

³ They couldn't inherit this land with their swords,
Nor could they be saved by their arms...
Just with Your right hand and mighty arm,
And by the light of Your face (if You liked them).

⁴ You are my King and my God,
And the One who told us how Jacob was saved.

⁵ So [we'll trust] that our enemies will also be gored,
And that in Your Name, those rising against us,
Will come to know Your contempt.

⁶ So I won't put trust in my bow,
Nor in my broadsword to save me,

⁷ Just the One who saves us from our oppressors,
And disgraces all those who detest us.

⁸ We will praise God every day,
And through the ages, speak well of His Name.

⁹ But now, You've pushed us away in disgrace,
And no longer take the lead of our army.

¹⁰ From our enemies, You've forced us to flee,
And given us as plunder to those who detest us.

¹¹ Like sheep, You gave us as food,
And scattered us among all the nations.

¹² You treated Your people as worthless,
And placed them as having no value.

¹³ You've made us the scorn of our neighbors,
To be taunted and sneered at by neighbors.

¹⁴ You've made us a parable to the nations...
As those at whom they can just shake their heads.

¹⁵ All day long, I am taunted,
And with shame, my face has been covered.

¹⁶ The sounds of berating and disrespect,
Is what I hear from our enemies,
Who have carried us off.

¹⁷ Yet, though all these things have happened to us,
We've not forgotten our God,
Nor have we broken our Agreement with You.

¹⁸ We've not left our hearts in the rear,
Nor have we turned from Your righteous paths.

¹⁹ In this God-forsaken place, we've been humbled,
And we're covered by the shadow of death.

²⁰ If we'd forgotten the Name of our God,
And fallen into the hands of foreign gods,

²¹ We should have expected such things.
For He knows the secrets in our hearts.

²² Because of You, we're killed all day long,
And thought of as sheep for the slaughter.

²³ So, wake up... why are You sleeping, O Lord?
Stand up... don't push us away 'til the end.

²⁴ O why have You turned Your face,
And not noticed our misery and affliction?

²⁵ Our lives have been humbled to dust,
And our bellies have been forced to the ground.

²⁶ So arise, O Jehovah, and help us!
Ransom us for the sake of Your Name!

Psalm 45

To the director: Regarding the changes. An ode of contemplation of the loved one by the sons of KorAh.

¹ My heart has thrust out good words,
And quickly, I write my work to the king;
For my tongue has become like a reed pen...
As one that is held in the hands of a scribe.

² More beautiful than the children of men,
Is the favor that pours from your lips.

³ And for this, may our God always be praised,
Into the ages of ages.

³ Strap your sword to your thigh, [mighty warrior],
⁴ And in your fineness, stretch tight your bow!
Bless us and rule us in truth...
In gentle ways and in justice.
With your wonderful right hand, give us direction!

⁵ Sharpen your arrows, O mighty one.
For the peoples beneath you must fall...
All the enemies in the heart of the king.

⁶ Your throne, O [Lord], is through ages of ages,
And your Kingdom is ruled by your scepter.

⁷ For, you have loved what is right,
And you have hated law breaking.

And for this, The God who's also your God,
Has anointed you with His oil,
And praised you above all your peers.

⁸ Your clothes smell of myrrh, balsam, and fruit,
Which is found in your palace of ivory.

⁹ In your honor, the daughters of kings find delight,
While your queen is at your right hand,
Wearing fine clothes embroidered with gold.

¹⁰ Listen, O daughter, and look...
Incline your ear and forget your own kin...
Those in the house of your father.

¹¹ For the king has desired your beauty,
And he is your [sovereign] lord.

¹² So, bow low before him, you daughters of Tyre.
And you rich; bring gifts to curry his favor!

¹³ The king's daughter is glorious within,
And she's wrapped in clothes embroidered with gold.

¹⁴ Then, all the virgins who follow her train,
(Those closest to her) will be carried to you.

¹⁵ They'll be carried there offering praises of joy,
And led to the king's Most Holy Place.

¹⁶ In place of your fathers, sons will be born,

And you'll appoint them as rulers over the lands.

¹⁷ From one generation to another,
All will remember your name.
Yes, all the peoples will praise you,
Through the age and into the age of the ages.

Psalm 46

To the director; by sons of KorAh regarding secret things

¹ Our God is our refuge and powerful aid,
Against the many problems we face.
² Because of this, we won't be afraid,
When the whole earth is upset,
And the mountains fall into the seas.
³ For, by His force, the waters will roar,
And the mountains will all be disturbed.
⁴ A river brings joy to the city of God...
To the holy high Tent of our God.
⁵ Since God is in there, [the city] won't fall;
For, morning-by-morning, God sends it His aid.
⁶ Kingdoms were tilted and nations were shaken,
For the Most High shouted and then shook the earth.
⁷ But Jehovah of armies is with us;
Yes, Jacob's God is our shield!
⁸ Come and witness the works of our God...
The miracles that He brought to our land!
⁹ For He's driven wars to the ends of the earth...
He has destroyed all the bows,
And burned all the weapons and shields in a fire.
¹⁰ 'Relax and know that I'm God.
And among the nations, I'll be raised high...
I'll rise high above the whole earth.'
¹¹ Yes, Jehovah of Armies is with us;
The God of Jacob is now our shield!

Psalm 47

For the director; by the sons of KorAh

¹ Clap your hands, all you nations,
And joyfully call to our God!
² Fear Jehovah, for He's the Most High;
Yes, He is the King of the earth!
³ He's caused the peoples to yield,
And He's put all the nations under our feet.
⁴ As His inheritance, He chose us;

For He loves the beauty of Jacob.

⁵ With a shout, our God has ascended...
From Jehovah, the sound of the trumpet was heard.

⁶ So, to our God, play your music;
Strum [your harps] to our King.

⁷ Since our God is the King of the earth,
Before Him, play your instruments well.

⁸ God rules over the nations,
And He reigns from His holy throne.

⁹ Under AbraHam's God,
The rulers of the peoples are gathered;
For He owns all the kings of the earth,
And by them, He's greatly respected.

Psalm 48

A Psalm; an ode by the sons of KorAh for the second Sabbath.

¹ O how great is Jehovah...
May He be praised in the city...
Praise our God on His Holy Mountain!

² Leap for joy, all you on the earth;
For, just to the north of Mount Zion,
Is the city of the great king.

³ In her estates, God is well known,
And He's the One who comes to her aid.

⁴ Look! The kings of the earth have assembled;
Yes, they've all come to this place!

⁵ And when they saw it, they were amazed...
They were shaken up and disturbed,

⁶ And then they started to tremble,
Like a woman who has pangs of birth.

⁷ With storms, You'll break boats from Tarshish.

⁸ And what we've heard is what we're expecting...
That the city of Jehovah the Almighty
(Yes, the city of God),
Was established by Him through the ages.

⁹ We've received Your mercies, O God,
And among Your people, we're standing.

¹⁰ O God, may Your Name always be praised,
To the ends of the earth;
For, from Your right hand comes justice that's true.

¹¹ O Mount Zion, be joyful;
Yes, shout in joy, you daughters of Judah,

Over the judgments of God.

¹² Encircle Zion and grab hold of her;
Describe each one of her towers.

¹³ Keep her armies close to your Hearts,
And make her palaces strong,
So future generations can see her.

¹⁴ [Jehovah's] is our God through the ages,
And into the age of the ages.
For, through the ages, He's watched over us.

Psalm 49

To the director; by the sons of KorAh.

¹ Listen to this, all you nations;
Give ear, all you who dwell in the land...

² You earth-born ones and sons of men,
Both the rich and the poor.

³ For my mouth will now speak of wisdom,
And the thoughts that my heart comprehend.

⁴ I'll turn my ear to a proverb,
And explain my riddle in this song:

⁵ *Why am I in fear of that wicked day,
When the lawless are chasing my heels,
And when they have me surrounded...*

⁶ *Those who enforce their own power,
And brag of their wealth before all?*

⁷ *May a man's brother serve as his ransom?
Why, he can't pay God for even himself!*

⁸ *For, if he tries to ransom himself,
Through the age, he'll grow weary of trying.*

⁹ *Thus, may he live 'till the end,
So his body will not see corruption.*

¹⁰ *Whenever a wise man has died,
With the foolish and mindless he passes away,
And his wealth is then passed on to strangers.*

¹¹ *Thereafter, his home is his tomb...
It's his tent through future generations.*

¹² *They may call the land by his name,
But he won't see the honor in that.*

*He then becomes like the cattle;
For like them, he thinks not at all,*

¹³ *And this is the snare in his path.
Though his mouth may find pleasure in the things that he's said,*

¹⁴ *Like a sheep, he goes to the place of the dead,
And there he is tended by death.*

*The next morning, he is ruled by the upright,
Who are no help to those in their graves,
Where they and their glory will be banished.*

¹⁵ *For, only God can ransom our lives,
From the hand of the grave,
Whenever He chooses to take us.*

¹⁶ *So, fear not those who grow rich,
Or those whose houses get glory.*

¹⁷ *For when they die, they take nothing along,
And all of their glory is gone.*

¹⁸ *Yet, while they're alive, they think their lives blest,
Since men have given them praise.*

¹⁹ *But, from one generation to another,
They just go down to their fathers,
And through the ages, they never see light.*

²⁰ *For an honored man does not realize,
That he's like the unthinking cattle,
And [his end] is also like theirs.*

Psalm 50

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ Jehovah is the God of all gods;
For He speaks and He calls the sun from the east,
Where it crosses the earth to where it descends.

² It's from Zion that His beauty shines forth,
³ And when His coming is seen...
He'll not be silent thereafter!

For a fire will go before Him and burn,
And a gale will blow all around Him.
⁴ He'll call to the earth from the heavens above,
And separate all of His people.

⁵ He'll gather His holy ones to Him
(Those who [follow] His Sacred Agreement),
⁶ And across the skies, shout His judgments.

For, God is always our judge.
⁷ He says, 'Listen, My people, and I'll speak!
Hear, O IsraEl, and I'll testify!
For I am God... I'm your God!

⁸ 'I won't discipline you for the things you've sacrificed,
Since you whole burnt-offerings have been there.

⁹ Yet I never asked for the calves from your homes,
Or for your winter yearlings or flocks.

¹⁰ 'For the beasts in the fields are already Mine,
As are your cattle and oxen,
¹¹ And all the birds in the skies.
For the beauty of the fields came from Me!

¹² 'If I were hungry, I'd never tell you;
For all in man's habitation is Mine.
¹³ But, why should I eat meat of bulls,
Or drink the blood of male goats?

¹⁴ 'Why not offer Me praise as your sacrifice,
And pay the vows that you've made?
¹⁵ Then, you could call on Me in [hard times],
And I would [be there to] save you...
And thereafter, you'd speak of My glory.'

¹⁶ But to the sinner, God asked:
'Why do you take up My Laws,
And speak of My Sacred Agreement,
¹⁷ When you've hated all My instructions,
And behind you, thrown all My words?

¹⁸ 'If you saw a thief, you'd run with him!
And you'd join with those committing adultery.
¹⁹ Your mouths are filled with what's bad,
And your tongues are twisted in lies.

²⁰ 'Against your own brother, you sit and speak ill...
You set snares for the son of your mother!
²¹ Then, if I don't speak when you're breaking My Laws,
You think that I am like you!

'But soon I will discipline you...
I'll stand in your face for your sins!
²² So notice, all you who've forgotten your God;
For the time will come when I'll snatch you away,
And no one will be there to save you.

²³ 'And then, though you offer Me glory,
With your sacrifices and praising...
There's no way that I'll be there to save you!'

Psalm 51

To the director; A Psalm of David when the Prophet Nathan came to him over his taking BathSheba the wife of UriAh.

¹ Show mercy on me, O my God!
In Your abundant compassions,
Erase my violations of Your Law.

² Wash away all my lawless deeds,
And cleanse me of all my sins.
³ For I know all the laws I have broken,
And my errors are ever before me.
⁴ Yes, I have sinned against You,
And it's a wicked thing that I've done.
So Your words against me are righteous,
And I must be humble when I'm being judged.
⁵ Look! In lawlessness, I was conceived...
Yes, in the strange food of sin,
Which I've craved [since I came from] my mother.
⁶ However, You love what is true,
And You've revealed the bad things I've done,
From the hidden, private things of Your wisdom.
⁷ Now, sprinkle me with branches of hyssop,
So I can be clean once again...
Wash me with the snow from above,
So I can be whitened before You.
⁸ Let me hear cheering and gladness...
Let my humbled bones be joyful again!
⁹ Turn Your face away from my sin,
And erase all of my lawless deeds!
¹⁰ O God;
Create in me a heart that is clean,
And renew me inside with right spirit.
¹¹ Don't reel and turn Your face in disgust,
Nor take away Your Holy Breath.
¹² Return the joy of salvation to me...
Support me and [help me] rule [well].
¹³ Then I'll teach Your ways to the lawless,
And turn the irreverent back toward You.
¹⁴ O my Savior and God;
If You'll save me from the guilt of this blood,
³¹ My tongue will shout in praise of Your justice.
¹⁵ O Jehovah;
To You, I'll open my lips,
And with my mouth, I will praise You!
¹⁶ If You wanted sacrifices, I'd give them;
But, You don't think well of burnt offerings.
¹⁷ What You want is a spirit that's broken,
For, You don't overlook humbled hearts.

NOTE: Some versions of the Septuagint don't include the following verses.

¹⁸ O Jehovah; In Your good will,
Do the best thing for Zion...
Let JeruSalem's walls be rebuilt.
¹⁹ Think well of our righteous sacrifices,
And we'll bring burnt offerings to Your Altar.

Psalm 52

To the director; A Psalm of David's contemplation, regarding the time when Doeg the Edomite went to Saul to tell him that David had gone to the house of AhiMelek.

¹ O you great mighty one;
Why do you boast of the evil you've done,
And of your lawless deeds, all day long?
² For, unrighteousness thinks of your tongue,
As treacherous as the strap for a razor,
³ Since you've preferred evil to goodness,
And what is unrighteous to telling the truth.
⁴ You have loved words that cause drowning,
As well as the tongue of deceit.
⁵ For this, our God will destroy you.
He'll pluck you out of your tent,
And from the land of the living,
He will then [pull up] your roots.
⁶ Of the righteous, you will know fear;
For they'll laugh at you and then say:
⁷ 'Notice this one who chose not to lean upon God,
But rather, put trust in his wealth,
And felt strong in his own foolish ways.'
⁸ [As for me];
In the House of my God,
I've been like a tree of ripe olives.
For, through the age, I've trusted His mercy...
Through the age, I've put faith in my God.
⁹ Yes, through the ages, I'll praise Him,
For He's finally brought me results.
And I will trust in His Name,
Because He provides for His holy ones.

Psalm 53

To the director; A Psalm for the harp. A contemplation of David.

¹ 'There is no God,' say the fools in their hearts;
So, they are corrupt and disgusting.
They are [involved in] lawbreaking,
And none choose to do what is good!
² God looks down from His place in the heavens,

And He keeps His eyes upon sons of men,
To see if they're paying attention,
And if any are searching for Him.

³ But they've all turned away and are useless;
No one does good... no, not one!

⁴ Don't they know (those acting without law...
Those eating [God's] people like bread),
That they should [search for] Jehovah?

⁵ So, they're afraid when there's nothing to fear.

For, God will scatter the bones,
Of those who try to please men.
And since they live their lives in disgrace,
God treats them all with contempt.

⁶ Now, who will be appointed from Zion,
To become IsraEl's savior?
For, God will return all the captives.
Then, Jacob will cry out in gladness,
And IsraEl will once more know joy!

Psalm 54

*To the director; one of the hymns of contemplation by David, regarding the time when the Ziphites said to Saul:
'{Look!} Isn't David hiding among us?'*

¹ O God;
For the sake of Your Name, please save me,
And use Your powers to bring us what's just.

² O God, please hear my prayer...
Hear the words that come from my mouth.

³ For, strangers have risen against me,
And the strong who don't know You, are seeking my life!

⁴ But look... God came and He helped me;
Jehovah has shielded my soul!

⁵ To my enemies, He's sent what is bad,
And He used the truth to destroy them.

⁶ So I'll offer sacrifices to You,
And I will praise Your great Name.

⁷ For, from great danger, You've saved me,
And my eyes have seen my prayers answered.

Psalm 55

To the director; one of the hymns of the contemplations of Asaph.

¹ Give ear, O God, to my prayer;
Don't overlook the things that I beg.

² Please pay attention and listen!

I was worried in my meditations...
By my enemy's voice, I was disturbed,
³ And by the oppression of sinners.
For lawlessly, they've all turned against me,
And in anger, they've shown me their rage.

⁴ My heart was pounding within me,
And the fear of death overcame me...
⁵ I was afraid, shaking, and covered by darkness,
⁶ So I begged, 'Please give me the wings of a dove,
That I may spread them and go find some rest!'

⁷ {Look!} I was driven far away into exile...
I was forced to live in the desert,
⁸ Where I waited for someone to save me,
From my own fears and the storms.

⁹ O Jehovah, please sink them...
Make them speak different tongues!
For I've seen how lawless they are,
And in the towns, I've heard of their battles.

¹⁰ Lawless ways and misery dwell in their midst...
Day and night, they encircle our walls,
¹¹ Bringing injustice to our city squares,
With treachery and high-interest loans.

¹² Had I been slandered by my enemies,
Happily, I would have endured it.
And if someone who hates me had spoken great words,
I would have just hidden from him.

¹³ But it's you, O man, someone like me...
A leader of mine and a Seer!
¹⁴ It was you who once sweetened our food,
And we lived in the same house together!

¹⁵ May death come to them all,
And alive, may they go into their graves.
For, wickedness travels among them,
And it dwells in their midst.

¹⁶ Then I cried out to God, and He heard me.
¹⁷ So at morning, noon, and during the night,
I'll ask Him for the things that I need,
And He'll listen to all my requests.

¹⁸ For peaceful things, He will ransom my soul...
He'll save me from those who were once on my side,
But who now come to attack me.

¹⁹ God will listen and humble all those,

Who existed before the ages arrived.
He will not bargain with them,
Because they didn't fear God.

²⁰ He'll also stretch out His hand and repay,
All those who've profaned His Sacred Agreement.
²¹ With the rage of His face, He will cut them to shreds,
And then He will snatch out their hearts.
For like olive oil, His words may sound soft,
But He can also shoot them like arrows.
²² So upon Jehovah, throw your concerns,
Then He'll nourish and take care of you.
He won't allow ages to pass,
As the righteous are being abused.
²³ So You, O God, will soon lead them
(Those men of blood and deception),
Into the well of corruption.
There's no way they will live even half of their days;
For Jehovah, I'm trusting in You.

Psalm 56

To the director. For the people; from the holy things of David and for an inscription [about the time] when the Philistines held him at Gath.

¹ Show mercy on me, O my God;
For a man has trampled me throughout the day,
And oppressed me in a great war.
² All day long, my enemies beat me...
From higher ground, they've battled against me.
³ But today, I won't be afraid;
For in You, I am putting my trust.
⁴ I'll praise You with words all day long;
In God, I'm putting my hope;
So, those made of flesh, I won't fear.
⁵ Every day, they've hated my words,
And just think of the harm they can do.
⁶ They run and hide and watch for my heel,
As they patiently wait for my life.
⁷ Yet, You won't bring them salvation...
But, in Your rage, You'll destroy them.
⁸ O God;
To You, I've given My life,
And as You've promised, You've noticed my tears.
⁹ So, when I must call out to You,
Please drive my enemies away.

{Look!} I've known that you are my God;
¹⁰ So I'll [give heed to] Your council,
And praise the words of Jehovah.
¹¹ I've put all my hope in my God,
So I'll not be afraid of what men can do.
¹² Within me, O God, are the vows
That I have made to Your praise,
¹³ For from death, You have ransomed my soul.
There are also tears in my eyes,
For You didn't allow them to trip me.
Thus, here in the light of the living,
I can keep pleasing Jehovah.

Psalm 57

To the director; 'Do not Destroy,' by David. For an inscription on a monument regarding the time he ran away from Saul [and hid in] a cave.

¹ O God, show mercy upon me...
Please show mercy on me!
For to You, I have given my life,
And I trust in the shadow of Your wings.
Until these lawless things pass me by,
² I'll call out to God, the Most High...
The One by whom I am blest.
³ From the heavens, He's sent me protection...
And on those treading upon me, God heaped His scorn.
God sent me His mercy and truth,
⁴ And saved my life from young lions.
Whenever I went to bed,
By the sons of men, I was bothered.
For their teeth are just like their weapons,
And their arrows are like sharpened swords.
⁵ May You be exalted, my God,
Above the highest of the heavens...
Above all the lands, lift Your glory!
⁶ They have set snares for my feet,
And my soul, they have dragged to the ground.
They've dug a cesspool in front of my face;
But, they are the ones who fell in it.
⁷ My heart is now ready, O God,
And in glory, I'll sing and strum to Your Name.
⁸ So awaken my glory and awaken my harp,
When I arise in the morning.
⁹ Then among the peoples, I'll praise You, O Lord,

And among all the nations, I'll strum to [Your Name].

¹⁰ For, above the heavens, Your mercy is raised,
And Your Truth is above all the clouds.

¹¹ So above the skies, may You be raised...

O God, may Your glory [shine] over the earth.

Psalm 58

To the director; 'Do Not Destroy,' by David. An inscription on a monument.

¹ Won't You speak out for righteous ways,
And won't You justly judge sons of men?

² For, their hearts have brought lawless ways to the land,
And their hands are wrapped in injustice!

³ Sinners come out of the womb,
And wander from the belly speaking lies.

⁴ Their rage is like that of serpents;
And as asps that can't speak, they've closed their ears,

⁵ So they can't hear the sounds of [snake] charmers,
[And they strike] with the potions of witches.

⁶ So, God has broken the teeth in their mouths...
Their molars of lions, He's shattered.

⁷ He looks on them as though they're just water,
And He'll stretch tight His bow 'til they're conquered...

⁸ Like melted beeswax, they'll be removed;
For His fire will strike them so they'll not see the sun.

⁹ As white-thorned shrubs, He views their thorn-bushes;
And He'll swallow them down still alive.

¹⁰ All will rejoice when they see how they're punished,
And in the blood of those sinners, we'll wash our hands.

¹¹ Then each man will be forced to declare,
That this is the fruitage of justice,
And there's a God who brings what's just to the land.

Psalm 59

To the director; 'Do Not Corrupt' by David. An inscription on a monument about the time when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him.

¹ From my enemies, please save me, O God...
Ransom me from my attackers.

² Deliver me from those who are breaking the law,
And from men of blood, please save me.

³ {Look!} For, they've been hunting soul...
They've sent their mighty against me.
And it's not because I've been lawless, O Lord,
Nor is it due to my sins!

⁴ Although I have broken no laws,

From them, I've been forced to flee...
So awaken to meet me and notice!

⁵ O God, Jehovah of armies...
O God of IsraEl, take notice...
Come and visit those nations!

Don't pity those who are lawless...

⁶ May they return starved in the evening,
And like dogs, may they roam through the [streets].

⁷ They shout with their swords to their lips,
As they ask, 'Who is paying attention?'

⁸ But You, O Lord, should be laughing out loud,
And treating them all with contempt.

⁹ You are my strength, O my God...
You are my shield [and protection].

¹⁰ The mercy of God goes before me,
And on my enemies, He brings what I wish.

¹¹ But don't kill them, so Your Laws aren't unnoticed,
But scatter them with Your power.
O my defender, Jehovah;
Have them be led far away!

¹² For the sins of their mouths and the words on their lips,
Let them be taken as captives...
May they be cursed for their pride and their lies.

¹³ In Your rage, please consume them,
So they will no longer exist.
Then they'll know Jacob's Master is God,
To the ends of the earth.

¹⁴ When they return in the evening,
May they all come back starved,
And like dogs, may they roam through the [streets].

¹⁵ May they be scattered to search for their food,
And when they're not filled, let them grumble.

¹⁶ I'll sing of all Your great powers,
And I'll praise Your mercies each morning;
For, You are my my refuge and shield,
In my day of distress.

¹⁷ Because You're my helper, I'm strumming to You...
Yes I'm playing to You, for You are my God.
O God, You are truly my shield,
For, You have shown mercy upon me.

Psalm 60

To the director; 'The Changings.' For an inscription on a monument by David, as a lesson about when he fought the MesoPotamians of the Syrian [army] under SoBal, and when JoAb returned and cut down twelve thousand men of Edom in the Salt Valley.

- ¹ O God;
You've knocked us down and pushed us away,
But You also felt pity with Your anger.
- ² You shook the land and disturbed it;
So, please heal the cracks that resulted.
- ³ You've taught Your people hard lessons,
And in the wine of Your rage, we've been melted.
- ⁴ But to those who fear You, You sent a sign,
To flee from the face of the bow.
- ⁵ You bring salvation to all those You love,
So listen, and with Your hands, save me!
- ⁶ From His Holy Place, our God spoke.
He said, 'I'll shout and then divide SheChem...
The Valley of Tents, I will split.
- ⁷ 'Gilead is Mine and ManasSeh is Mine;
Ephraim is the fort of My head,
And Judah is the place of My king.'
- ⁸ Then, over Edom He said:
'Moab is the kettle of My hope,
So, I will stretch out My sandal,
And make the Philistines submit.'
- ⁹ Who can bring me up to their forts,
And who can guide Me to Edom?
- ¹⁰ O Lord, why did You thrust us away?
O God, won't be with our army?
- ¹¹ Help us in our day of oppression,
For the salvation of men is in vain.
- ¹² Only by God do we have any strength...
Only He can show great contempt,
For those who have been our oppressors.

Psalm 61

To the director; one of the hymns of David. A Psalm.

- ¹ Listen, O God, to the things that I beg...
Please pay attention to my prayer.
- ² From the ends of the earth, I called out to You,
When my heart was discouraged at the Rock;
Then You lifted me high and showed me the way.

³ When my enemies were there in front of my face,
You were my only reason for hope...
You were my tower and strength.

⁴ So I'll go to Your Tent through the ages;
In the protection of Your wings, I'll seek shelter.

⁵ For You, O God, have heard what I vowed,
And an inheritance is what You will give
To all those fearing Your Name.

⁶ Day after day, add life to the king,
Through generations of generations.

⁷ Through the ages, may he live before God,
And search for His mercy and truth.

⁸ Then through the ages, I'll sing to Your Name,
And render my vows every day.

Psalm 62

To the director; for IdiThun. A Psalm by David.

¹ Shouldn't my life be devoted to God?
In His salvation, shouldn't I trust?

² For, He is my God and my Savior...
He is my shield, so I'll not be afraid,
When I must fight larger armies.

³ How long will You pile so much upon men?
For like leaning walls, we've become,
Or like fences that have many gaps...
And then, to each one, You send death.

⁴ They've conspired to remove all my honor;
So from them, I then ran away.
For, though they bless with their mouths;
In their hearts, they have cursed me.

⁵ But I've given my life to my God,
And trusted in Him for survival.

⁶ He is my God and my Savior;
He's my shield, so I'll never leave Him.

⁷ He's my salvation and glory;
God is my hope, so I'm trusting in Him.

⁸ The gathering should put faith in Him...
Since He's their helper, they should pour out their hearts.

⁹ In the sons of men, they shouldn't put trust;
For, they are the same as false weights,
Which are used to cheat them on scales...
To mislead them and do them wrong.

¹⁰ So don't trust in unrighteous ways,

Or long for things you can steal.
And should you find treasures before you,
Don't let this enter your hearts.

¹¹ For the Lord spoke to me and said this:

'God sends both might and mercy,

¹² And He pays each one back for the things that he does.'

Psalm 63

A Psalm by David about the time he spent in the desert of Idumea.

¹ God, O my God; I rise early for You.
Because, my soul thirsts for You.
How much my flesh has been longing for You,
In a land that is barren, unwalked, and dry.

² So, to Your Holy Place, I have come,
To behold Your power and glory.

³ And since Your mercies are better than life,
My lips will [sing praises of them].

⁴ With my whole life, I will praise You,
And to Your Name, I am raising my hands.

⁵ May my life become filled with the fatness of fat,
And with joyful lips, may my mouth offer praise.

⁶ I'm thinking of You as I lie in my bed...
I meditate about You at the breaking of dawn.

⁷ And because You're my helper, I'm shouting in joy,
As I lie in Your wings of protection.

⁸ To You, my soul will stick closely,
And to Your right hand, I'll grab hold;
⁹ For, there are those who are seeking my life.

To the depths of the ground, may they go.

¹⁰ May they be handed up to the sword...
The reward of foxes, may they receive.

¹¹ But, may the king find joy in [his] God,
And swear an oath here before Him;
For, He has stopped up the mouths,
Of those unrighteously speaking against him.

Psalm 64

To the director; A Psalm by David.

¹ O God, please listen to my voice,
For, I am begging before You.
Of my enemies, I am afraid...
Please come rescue my soul!

² From the conspiracies of the wicked, give me shelter...

And from the crowds of the unrighteous.
³ For they've sharpened their tongues just like broadswords,
And in bitterness, stretched tight their bows.
⁴ They aim from hiding at the unblemished,
Then shoot them down without fear.
⁵ They've decided to do evil things,
And they've talked about how they'll hide all their snares...
Asking each other, 'Who will see them?'
⁶ For lawless ways, they have searched,
But, all their searching has failed;
For not a single man would step forward,
Who had any depth in his heart.
⁷ So, may Jehovah be praised;
For, calamity came upon them from infants.
⁸ Though they spoke in contempt with their tongues,
And all who viewed them were frightened;
⁹ Of the works of my God, their men were in awe,
When they realized He was with me.
¹⁰ So, may the upright find joy in the Lord,
And in Him, may they put all of their trust;
For He blesses those with straight hearts.

Psalm 65

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ From Zion, I am sending this hymn, O God;
From JeruSalem, I'm sending this vow.
² Please hear this prayer [that I offer];
For, before You, all flesh must approach.
³ Though we were overwhelmed by our errors;
You've covered our irreverent ways.
⁴ Blest are those whom You've chosen and claimed;
For, in Your courtyards, they'll camp,
And there You'll fill us with the good things,
That come from Your House and Your Holy Tent.
⁵ Your righteousness leaves us in awe;
So hear us, our God and our Savior!
⁶ You're the hope of all to the ends of the lands,
And of those far away on the seas.
It was You who made mighty mountains,
⁷ And who brings the disturbance to seas...
Before the roar of their waves, who can stand?
⁸ But, that's how the nations will soon be disturbed,

And how those at their borders will come to know fear.

⁹ Your signs bless the comings of mornings and evenings,
And You've made the land drunk with Your visits.
From the river of God, You've enriched it...
You've nourished [our land] with the water You sent.

¹⁰ Yes, You've sent [much water to the ground],
To saturate the rows and make them produce.
You've sent raindrops to make it all grow,
And we're joyful as we watch things spring from the ground.

¹¹ You graciously bless the crown of the year,
When Your plains become filled with fatness.

¹² And the beautiful mountains will also be fat,
Along with all of the deserts.

Then, wrapped [in green], the hills will become;

¹³ And on rams and sheep, there'll be wool.
In the valleys, You make the grain grow,
So we'll shout and sing praises of You.

Psalm 66

To the director; a Psalm of awakening.

¹ Shout to Jehovah, all you on the earth,

² And then strum songs to His Name!
Shout in praise of His Glory!

³ Say to God,
'We fear the things that You do,
And may Your enemies submit to Your power.

⁴ May the whole earth bow down to You,
And may they strum to You in the heights.'

⁵ Come witness the works of our God,
For they're more to be feared more than what men may think.

⁶ He's the One who changed the sea to dry land,
As He did to the river, which they crossed on their feet.

In Him, all should find joy,

⁷ For He's the master of all His domain.
Through the ages, His eyes have watched nations;
So, may those who enrage Him not hold themselves high.

⁸ O nations; give praise to our God...
May we all hear the sounds of your voices!

⁹ For, He's the One who gave life my soul,
And He's allowed nothing to stumble my feet.

¹⁰ Yes, You have tried us, O God,
And You have refined us like silver.

¹¹ You're the One led us into the snare,

And upon our backs, laid oppression.
¹² Then, over our heads, You put men...
And through fire and water, You led us to rest.
¹³ So with offerings, I'll go to Your House,
And render to You all my vows...
¹⁴ Those things that my lips have opened to say...
The words my mouth have said in distress.
¹⁵ I'll bring burnt offerings with marrow and incense,
Along with rams, winter yearlings, and bulls.
¹⁶ Come listen to me and I'll tell you,
About the fear of my God,
And of the things He has done for my soul.
¹⁷ To Him, my mouth has cried out,
And with my tongue, I said this:
¹⁸ 'If You've found injustice within my heart,
Don't listen to me, O Jehovah.'
¹⁹ But then He heard what I said...
He listened to the sound of my prayers!
²⁰ So, may our God now be praised!
For He didn't ignore the things that I asked,
Nor did He remove His mercy from me.

Psalm 67

To the director; A Psalm of David from among the hymns.

¹ O God, feel pity and bless us;
Show mercy and shine Your face on us.
² Throughout the whole earth, may Your ways be made known,
And may all the nations see how You save...
³ May everyone come to know You, O God...
May they all be aware of Your [power].
⁴ O nations, be glad and cry out [in joy];
For He'll judge the peoples in straightness,
And He'll guide all the nations of the earth.
⁵ May everyone come to know You, O God...
May they all know of Your [greatness].
⁶ The earth has provided her fruit;
So, You have blest us O God (our God).
⁷ May God continue to give us His blessings,
And may He be feared to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 68

To the director; a Psalm of David.

¹ May God come and chase those who hate Him,
And may those who detest Him, flee from His face.

² Like smoke, may they just blow away...
May they melt like beeswax in fire.

That's how the sinners will all be destroyed,
Before the face of our God.

³ But the righteous have reasons for joy,
So, may they happily shout in His presence...
May they be joyful and blest!

⁴ Sing to God... yes, strum to His Name!
Open the way to the One riding west...
Jehovah, is His [great] Name!

May all shout before Him in joy,
And before His face, may all be disturbed.

⁵ For, He is a Father to orphans,
And He's the One who gives justice to widows...
Such is our God in His Holy Place.

⁶ God settles common people in their homes,
And releases all those bound in shackles.
He does the same for the bitter,
And for those who are dwelling in tombs.

⁷ O God, as You passed by Your people,
And as You were crossing the desert,

⁸ The land was shaken and the skies dripped,
Before the face of the God of Sinai...
Before the face of IsraEl's God.

⁹ O God;
Upon Your inheritance, You have sent rain,
And You chose to restore us.

¹⁰ You also gave life to the beasts [in the fields],
And Your kindness provides for the poor.

¹¹ The Great God Jehovah will speak,
And announce good news to our army.

¹² Then the king and his armies of loved ones,
Will divide the spoils in his home.

¹³ And even if you camp between ash heaps,
You will still sleep amidst doves...
Those that have silver wings,
And green and gold on their backs.

¹⁴ The Heavenly One scatters kings,
And makes them like snow on Mount Selmon...

¹⁵ The mountain of God and the Hill of BaShan...
The fourth great mountain of provision.

¹⁶ O you mountains;
Why does God choose to dwell upon you?
For, Jehovah camps at the extremes,
¹⁷ And His chariots number into the millions.
Yet, from His Holy Place on Mount Sinai,
The Lord still sends His provisions.

¹⁸ To the highest places, He has stepped up,
And carried captivity as a captive;
Then, He gave gifts to the people...
As He camps among those who resist His persuasion!

¹⁹ So, praise Jehovah, our God!
Praise Jehovah each day!
For, He is the One who has blest us...
Our God is the One who has saved us!

²⁰ So our God is the God of salvation...
For from the brink of death, He's returned [us]!
²¹ Our God will shatter His enemies' heads...
The tops of hairy heads of those walking in sin.

²² Jehovah spoke and said this:
'From BaShan, I will return them,
And I'll bring them back from the depths of the seas.
²³ Then your feet will be dipped in your enemy's blood,
And it will stain the tongues of your dogs.'

²⁴ O God;
From Your Holy Place, Your travels are seen...
The comings and goings of my God the King.
²⁵ Rulers have traveled before You,
With women playing harps and tambourines.

²⁶ May God be praised in the gathering,
All the way to IsraEl's springs,
²⁷ Where young BenJamin was surprisingly appointed the ruler,
Of the governors of Judah and her princes,
And the leaders of ZebuLun and NaphTali.

²⁸ Give orders, O God, to Your power;
Make stronger the things that You're doing among us;
²⁹ Then the kings [of the earth] will bring gifts to You,
And to Your Holy Place in JeruSalem.

³⁰ Scold the wild beasts that live in the reeds,
And the bulls that are mixed among heifers.
Lock away all those who [put trust] silver,
And scatter the nations... all those that want war.

³¹ Ambassadors are coming from Egypt,
With Ethiopians in front and their hands stretched toward God.

³² O you kingdoms of the earth;
Sing before God and play music!
³³ Yes, strum to Jehovah who lives in the skies...
In the heavens above, toward the east.
{Look} [All must] shout in a powerful voice,
³⁴ And give glory to IsraEl's God,
Whose majesty and power [can be seen] in the clouds.
³⁵ God's wonders are in His Most Holy Place.
And from there, IsraEl's God sends the power
That He uses to strengthen His people...
So, all should give praise to [Jehovah]!

Psalm 69

To the director; for the changes. A Psalm of David.

¹ Save me please, O my God;
For my soul [is drowning] in water.
It's deep and slimy, and I have no support...
² I've gone into the depths of the sea,
For the winds of a gale have sunk me.
³ From shouting, I've become tired,
And my throat is now very sore.
But although my eyes have started to fail,
I still have faith in my God.
⁴ My enemies number more than the hairs on my head...
Yes, there are many who hate me.
And my foes are now very strong...
Those who've driven me out unjustly.
And for the things that I didn't take by force,
I'm told that I must now pay.
⁵ O God;
You know of my sins and my foolish ways,
For from You, they are never concealed.
⁶ But may those who trust You, my God,
Never be ashamed over me.
Yes, O Jehovah of armies;
May those who are seeking IsraEl's God
Never be ashamed over me.
⁷ Because of You, I am scorned,
And my face has been covered in shame.
⁸ I've been driven away from my brothers...
I'm a stranger to the sons of my mother.
⁹ Although zeal for Your House has consumed me,
The scorn of blasphemers has fallen on me.

¹⁰ My life is now wrapped up in fasting,
And this gives them more reasons to laugh.
¹¹ For, when I was covered in sackcloth,
I became a parable among them.

¹² Those sitting at the gates think deeply of me,
And even drunks are singing about me.
¹³ But to You, O Jehovah, I'll cry out in prayer:
'O God; I'll await the time You've appointed,
When in Your mercy, You'll heed me once more,
And show them the truth of how You can save.'

¹⁴ O save me, for I'm stuck in this mud!
Pull me from the waters of those who detest me!
¹⁵ May the gale not sink me in water,
Nor swallow me down in the mouth of its well.

¹⁶ Listen to me, O Jehovah,
For Your mercies are all very kind.
In compassion, please look down upon me!

¹⁷ Don't turn Your face from Your servant;
In my time of affliction, please heed me!
¹⁸ Give attention and ransom my soul...
From my enemies, please come and save me!

¹⁹ You know of my scorn, my shame, and remorse.
And before You, my enemies look on in scorn.
²⁰ In my misery, I thought others would grieve;
But they didn't exist or bring comfort.

²¹ As food, they offered me bile,
And vinegar is what they offered to quench my thirst.
²² But, may their table become their own snare...
In repayment, may it stand in their way.

²³ May their eyes become dark, so they cannot see,
And may their backs be bent over double.
²⁴ Pour out Your anger upon them...
May they be caught in Your rage.

²⁵ May the houses they own become empty,
And may no one live in their tents.
²⁶ For they've chased this one whom You struck,
And added to the pain of my wounds.

²⁷ For their lawless ways, may they see lawless ways...
May they not enter Your justice.
²⁸ Erase their names from the Scroll of the Living...
With the righteous, may their names not be written.

²⁹ I stand in Your presence, poor and in pain;

O God, please take hold of me!

³⁰ Then I'll praise the Name of my God...
With a song, I will sing of His glory.

³¹ Then God above will be pleased,
[When I offer] hoofed calves that are just sprouting horns.

³² Let all the poor people see it,
And let them also rejoice.

Inquire of God who gives life to your soul,
³³ For Jehovah gives ear to the needy,
And He listens to those bound in shackles...
He never treats them with contempt.

³⁴ So praise Him, you heavens, you earth, and you sea,
And all the things that might crawl there;

³⁵ For Zion will be saved by our God,
And the cities of Judah will then be rebuilt,
Which the people will inherit thereafter,
And that is where they will live.

³⁶ Yes, the seed of Your servants will own it,
And those loving Your Name will all camp there.

Psalm 70

To the director; A Psalm of David in remembrance of his being saved by Jehovah.

¹ O God, please hear me and help;
O Jehovah, please rush to my aid!

² May those seeking my life feel shame and remorse;
May those wishing me harm retreat in disgrace.

³ May those saying of me, 'Well done, well done,'
Turn back and then be ashamed.

⁴ May those who seek You be glad and rejoice;
May those who love Your salvation,
Also give praise to Jehovah.

⁵ Help me, O God, for I'm poor and in need...
You're my helper and Savior,
So please [come and help me]... do not delay!

Psalm 71

A Psalm of David that was sung by the sons of JoNadab who were the first to be carried off as captives.

¹ In You, O Jehovah, I've put my hope;
May I not be disgraced through the age.

² In Your justice, please save me and take me;
Incline Your ear and deliver!

³ Become to me, a God of defense,
And carry me to a fortified place.

For, You are my sureness and refuge!

⁴ From the hands of sinners, God saves me...
From the lawless and those doing wrong.

⁵ O Jehovah; You are my endurance...
The One whom I've trusted since youth.

⁶ I have stayed with You since the womb;
From the belly of my mother, You've been my shelter,
And to You, I will always sing praises.

⁷ A miracle, You've been to so many,
And You are my helper and fort.

⁸ So, may my mouth sing in praise of Your glory,
And Your majesty, throughout the day.

⁹ When I grow old, don't toss me away;
Don't abandon me when my strength has all failed.

¹⁰ My enemies met, and against me, they spoke;
Together, those seeking my life laid their plans,
¹¹ They said, 'God's left him, so let's chase him down,
For there's no one who'll come to his aid.'

¹² O my God, don't stay far away...
My God, pay attention and help me!

¹³ May those who slander my soul fail in shame...
May those wishing me bad feel shame and remorse.

¹⁴ In You, I will always trust,
And I will continue to praise You.

¹⁵ My mouth will speak of Your justice all day,
And I'll proclaim Your salvation in writing.

¹⁶ I will walk in the might of Jehovah...
O Lord, I will speak of Your justice.

¹⁷ O God, from my youth, You have taught me,
And now, I will speak of Your wonders.

¹⁸ O my God;
Don't forsake me when I'm old and grey,
Or until I've told about Your mighty arm,
To the next generation.

¹⁹ I'll speak of Your justice and might, O my God,
And of the magnificent things that You've done.
O God, there's no other like You.

²⁰ You've shown me bad times and affliction,
And then You turned and gave back my life.
You brought me back from the pit...
You led me up out of the ground.

²¹ In the abundance of Your greatness, You blest me...
You returned to offer me comfort.
And then You led me from the abyss...
You led me up out of the ground.

²² O Jehovah;
Among the peoples, I'll praise You,
And I will sing songs of Your trueness,
My God and the Holy One of IsraEl.

To You, I'll strum on my harp,
²³ And shout praises as I play before You,
For You have ransomed my soul.
²⁴ So with my tongue, I'll speak of Your justice,
When those doing bad feel shame and remorse.

Psalm 72

For Solomon; A Psalm of David.

¹ O God;
Show the king Your decisions,
And teach the king's son to be just,
² So we can judge Your people uprightly,
And be fair with the poor.
³ May the mountains send peace to Your people,
And may the hills send them justice.
⁴ May [my son] be fair with the poor...
May he save the sons of the needy,
And humble those who would extort them.
⁵ As long as the sun, may he live...
For generations of generations, like the moon.
⁶ May he be like rain upon fleece,
And as the rain that falls to the ground.
⁷ May his days stand for justice and peace,
Until the moon is no more.
⁸ From sea to sea, may he rule...
From the rivers to the ends of man's home.
⁹ Before him, may Ethiopians fall...
May his enemies all lick the dust...
¹⁰ May the Kings of Tharsis and the islands
Come to him bearing good things...
Yes, may kings of Saba and Arabia send gifts.
¹¹ May all the earth's kings bow before him...
May all nations come here to serve him.
¹² For he'll save the poor from the mighty,
And the needy, who have no one else.

¹³ May he spare the poor and the needy;
May he save the lives of those without much.
¹⁴ From interest and injustice, he'll ransom their souls,
And his name will be valued among them.

¹⁵ May he live a very long life,
And may he be given Arabian gold.
May he always be prayed for...
May his name be praised every day.

¹⁶ Let grain abound throughout his land...
On the tops of the hills, may it sway.
Let its fruits flourish like Lebanon's trees,
And thrive like grass in the fields.

¹⁷ May his name be praised through the ages;
May his name endure [as long as] the sun.
May the tribes of the earth praise his name,
And may all nations call him the blest one.

¹⁸ Praise Jehovah, IsraEl's God,
For He's the only one who brings wonders!
¹⁹ Through the ages, praise His Name and His glory,
And on through the age of the ages!
May the earth be filled with His glory... amen!

²⁰ **This is the end of the hymns of David, the son of Jesse.**

Psalm 73

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ O how good is IsraEl's God,
To those who have hearts that are straight!

² Once my feet were unsteady,
And I slipped and fell in my tracks,
³ Because I became zealous for things that are wrong,
As I noticed the peace of the wicked.

⁴ For, they have no fear of death,
Nor is there proof that they've ever been whipped.
⁵ They never work as hard as other men do,
Nor like them, are they ever beaten.

⁶ Because of this, they are proud to the end;
In injustice and irreverence, they are wrapped.
Injustice pours from their fatness,
As they follow the ways of their hearts.

⁸ They think, then they speak wicked things;
In their pride, they speak of injustice.
⁹ They set heaven against their own mouths,

So their tongues will go under the ground.

¹⁰ But [from there], Your people will return,
And then, days that are full, they will find.

¹¹ Yet they ask, 'Doesn't God really know?
Isn't this known up above?

¹² For look! The sinners continue to prosper,
And through ages, hold onto their wealth!

¹³ So my heart justified foolish things,
And from innocence, I washed my hands.

¹⁴ So, I deserve to be whipped all day long,
And to be scolded each morning.

¹⁵ I said, 'I'll describe it this way:
{Look!} With Your sons, I've broken the contract!

¹⁶ But now, I've stopped and thought it all through,
And what I've done weighs heavily on me.

¹⁷ So I'll take it before God to see what I'm due.'

¹⁸ For their deceitful ways, He's appointed what's bad,
And He'll throw them down from their high perches.

¹⁹ O how far they've come to meet with this end...
Because they were lawless, they'll be suddenly gone.

²⁰ O Jehovah;
When I awoke, I looked at Your city,
And I saw how You'll treat the bad with contempt.

²¹ Then my heart came on fire and my kidneys changed;

²² For, I was the one deserving contempt...
An unthinking brute, I'd become.

²³ Yet, You never left me, despite all I've done...
You held onto my right hand.

²⁴ You gave me correction and led me,
Then You brought me back into Your glory.

²⁵ Now, what do I have in the heavens?
And other than You, what do I need?

²⁶ O God;
My heart and my flesh have both failed...
But through the age, You've been my portion and strength.

²⁷ {Look!} All will perish, who stay far from You...
The unfaithful, You will destroy.

²⁸ But stay close to me, O my God;
For I need to trust in my Lord.

May I sing in Your praise at the gates,
And before the daughters of Zion.

Psalm 74

A Psalm of contemplation by Asaph.

¹ O God;

To the end, You have pushed us away...
So are You angry at the sheep in Your pasture?

² Remember those whom You bought first...
Your inheritance and those whom You've ransomed,
When You first camped on Mount Zion.

³ Please turn Your steps back toward these ruins...
See what they've done to Your Most Holy Place.

⁴ For, those who hate You now feel they can boast,
And on Your Holy Days, claim success as their sign.

⁵ But they don't realize that this came from above.

They went to the woods and cut down the trees,

⁶ Then with axes and chisels, they broke down our gates,

⁷ And burned Your [Tent] to the ground.

They've profaned the Tent that carries Your Name,

⁸ And said in their hearts to their brothers:

'Let's drive His Holy Days away from the land!'

⁹ So from You, we haven't seen signs,

Nor have we a Prophet among us,

For our God no longer knows us.

¹⁰ O our God;

How long will our enemies berate us?

Will they oppose Your Name through the age?

¹¹ Why have You taken Your right hand away,
And held it back on Your chest?

¹² Our God and King lives through the ages,
And to our land, He'll bring back salvation.

¹³ For He's the One who held back the sea with His might,
And smashed the head of the dragon ruling over the waters.

¹⁴ Yes You fractured the head of the beast,
And fed him to the black peoples.

¹⁵ You tore open their rivers and springs,
And dried creeks that always held water.

¹⁶ The days are Yours, and so are the nights;
For it's You who created the sun and the moon.

¹⁷ It's You who set the earth's borders,
And it's You who made the summer and spring.

¹⁸ So, don't overlook Your creation!

Our enemies speak badly of Jehovah,

And the foolish are provoking His Name.

¹⁹ So, don't leave the praise of Your Name to wild beasts,
And [forever] forget those who need You.

²⁰ Yes, we've overlooked Your Sacred Agreement,
And now the whole land has grown dark,
With the homes of lawbreakers.

²¹ But don't turn from the humble and bring them disgrace,
For the poor and needy still praise Your Name.

²² Stand up, O God, and judge Your great cause...
Notice those fools who are laughing at You!

²³ Don't forget the voice of Your servants,
Or the pride of all those who hate You,
Which arises before You throughout the day.

Psalm 75

To the director; Do Not Destroy. A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ I will praise You, O God;
Of You I will speak, and I'll call on Your Name.
I will describe all Your wonders,

² For, at the right time, [You'll] send justice.

³ Now the land has just melted away,
As have all who live on it...
Though it's You who once set its columns.

⁴ I have spoken to the unrighteous,
And warned them to stop breaking laws.
Then to the sinners, I said:
'Don't raise your [battle] horns high...

⁵ Don't raise your horns to the heights,
Or speak unrighteously of God.

⁶ 'For, you can't escape to the valleys,
Or into the mountains or deserts.

⁷ Since God is our judge, He'll humble this one,
While He's elevating another.'

⁸ A cup is in the hand of the Lord,
Which is filled with pure wine.
And though He leans it this way and that,
His wine and its dregs never spill...
Then from it, the sinners must soon drink their fill.

⁹ Through the age, I'll shout praise to Jehovah...
To the God of Jacob, I'll strum.

¹⁰ For the trumpets of the sinners, He'll shatter,
While the horns of the righteous, He'll raise.

Psalm 76

To the director; one of the Psalms of Asaph. An ode about Assyria.

¹ In Judah, God is well known,
And in IsraEl, His Name's become great.
² His home is on Zion, so this place now knows peace,
³ And [for us] He's broken the bows, shields, and swords,
So there can be no more war.

⁴ From the mountain of ages, You sent us the light,
⁵ And disturbed those with hearts that are senseless.

All the rich fell asleep,
And then, in their hands, they found nothing.

⁶ The men riding horses slept also,
And You laughed at them, Jacob's God.

⁷ For they should fear You, since none can oppose You,
And none can [survive] when You're angry?

⁸ From the heavens, Your decisions were heard,
As the earth stood still and felt fear.

⁹ But then, You stood up for justice, O God,
And saved the meek of the land.

¹⁰ Thus the minds of men [sing] Your praises,
And what's left of their thoughts, celebrate You.

¹¹ What you vow, you should pay to Jehovah...
All you living nearby should be bringing Him gifts!

¹² Of Him, you should always be fearful,
For He can break the spirits of rulers,
And all kings are in terror of Him.

Psalm 77

To the director; a Psalm of Asaph for IdiThun.

¹ With my voice, I called out to Jehovah...
I shouted to God [in hope] that He'd hear.
² In the day of attack, I begged to my God,
And my hands were [folded] before Him all night.

I could not [find any comfort],
And my soul refused to find rest;
³ For I thought of my God and was bothered.
And as I thought, my spirit grew faint.

⁴ Each time that I closed my eyes,
All I saw was my enemies...
Which disturbed me so much that I couldn't speak.

⁵ So I reasoned about days of old,
And remembered the years of the ages.

⁶ In my heart, I gave it much thought;
Then I remembered my songs that I sung in the night,
And suddenly, my breath became still.

⁷ Has God pushed me away through the age?
Will the Lord care about me no more?

⁸ Through the age, will His mercy be gone?
Through generations, will He not reply?

⁹ Will God forget to show pity?
In His rage, will He forget His tender compassions?

¹⁰ Then I said, 'I'll now make a change...
And then, perhaps His right hand will change.

¹¹ I'll recall the works of Jehovah,
And think about all His wonders.

¹² Of the things He has done, I'll now meditate...
And I'll contemplate all of His works.'

¹³ O God, Your ways are all holy...
And what God is as great as our God?

¹⁴ You're the God who does wonderful things,
And among all mankind, Your powers are known.

¹⁵ For with Your arm, You ransomed Your people...
The sons of Jacob and JoSeph.

¹⁶ O God, the waters beheld You;
They looked at You and their depths were in fear.

¹⁷ So, rain and thunder came from the clouds,
And Your arrows shot both near and far.

¹⁸ From the thundering of Your wheels, there came lightning,
Which trembled and shook the home of mankind.

¹⁹ Your ways can be found in the seas,
And Your roads are [covered by] rivers,
So Your footsteps can never be seen.

²⁰ But You guided Your people like sheep,
Through the hands of Aaron and Moses.

Psalm 78

A contemplation of Asaph.

¹ My people; Pay attention to my laws!
Incline your ears to the words from my mouth.

² For my mouth will now speak illustrations,
And I'll talk in riddles from the start.

³ We've heard about it so many times;
For our fathers told us about them

⁴ (From their children, they didn't hide it),
For they told it to each generation...
[They spoke] in praise of the Lord and His rule,

And of the wondrous things that He's done.

⁵ He's provided a witness in Jacob,
And to IsraEl, He sent a Law,
Which He ordered the fathers to teach to their sons,
⁶ So each generation would know,
And the sons being born would pass it along...
⁷ That they all must trust in their God,
And never forget the things He has done,
Or fail to inquire about His Commandments,
⁸ So they won't be crooked like those who came before.

Yes, they were a crooked and a bitter generation,
Which did not straighten their hearts,
And they had a spirit that God couldn't trust.

⁹ Ephraim's sons stretched tight their bows,
Then they shot and were saved, in the day of the war.
¹⁰ But they failed to keep their Agreement with God,
And His Laws, they chose not to follow.
¹¹ They forgot all the good things He's done,
And all the wonders that He'd shown them...
¹² The wonders that He showed to their fathers in Egypt
(In plains of Tanis it happened),
¹³ When He ripped open the sea,
And through its midst, He then led them...
As He held back the waters as though in a bag.

¹⁴ Then He led them with a cloud during the day,
And by the light of a fire throughout the night.
¹⁵ He split open the rock in the desert,
And from a pit, gave them something to drink.
¹⁶ He brought water out of a stone,
And a river, thereafter flowed from it!

¹⁷ But then they turned and sinned against Him...
They embittered the Most High in that dry place...
¹⁸ They put God to the test in their hearts.
They demanded the food their souls craved,
¹⁹ And spoke ill of God, when they asked,
'Can't God set a table in the desert?'

²⁰ Since He struck the rock and from it flowed water
(And a stream then poured across the whole land),
How could they ask if He'd provide bread,
Or prepare a table for His people?

²¹ And when Jehovah heard all of this,
It raised His anger against them.
So He lit a fire within Jacob,

And He brought His rage upon IsraEl.

²² For they'd failed to put faith in their God,
And in His power to save them.

²³ Then He gave orders to the clouds up above,
And the gates of the heavens were opened.

²⁴ Manna rained down for them to consume...
The bread of heaven, He gave them.

²⁵ So the bread of angels was eaten by men,
And enough was sent to make them all full.

²⁶ Thereafter, He sent the wind from the sky...
By His power, He brought the winds from the south,

²⁷ And meat rained upon them like dust...
Feathered creatures, as the sands of the seas.

²⁸ They fell in the midst of their camp,
And around all of their tents.

²⁹ So they ate and became very full,
Since He'd brought them all they desired.

³⁰ They weren't deprived of the things that they wished;
But, while the food was still in their mouths,

³¹ The rage of God came upon them,
And there amidst plenty, He killed them...
IsraEl, His chosen, He then pushed away.

³² For in all these things, they had sinned,
Since they didn't believe in His wonders.

³³ So in folly, they ended their days,
And their years concluded too soon.

³⁴ Then, after the deaths, they turned back to Him;
They again arose early to search for their God.

³⁵ They remembered that God was their helper...
The Most High God who'd redeemed them.

³⁶ But, though with their mouths, they spoke of their love;
With their tongues, they also told lies.

³⁷ With Him, their hearts had never been straight,
Nor did they trust His Agreement with them.

³⁸ Yet, He felt pity and covered their sins...
He didn't destroy them or show them His rage,
And allow His anger to blaze.

³⁹ He remembered that they were just flesh...
Like winds that blow by and never return.

⁴⁰ Then they made Him bitter in the desert,
And provoked Him to rage in a waterless land.

⁴¹ They turned around and put God to the test...
The Holy One of IsraEl, they angered.

⁴² They forgot His hand on that day,
Which He used to buy them from their oppressors...
⁴³ Of the signs He'd sent upon Egypt,
And the miracles He'd brought upon Tanis' plains...
⁴⁴ How He turned their rain and rivers to blood,
So they were unable to drink it...
⁴⁵ And of how He sent fleas there to bite them,
Followed by frogs, which brought ruin...
⁴⁶ Or of how He appointed blight on their fruit,
And sent them the misery of locusts.

⁴⁷ Then He killed their grapevines with hail,
And He sent killing frost to their sycamore trees.
⁴⁸ He also brought hail on their cattle,
And burned their possessions in fire.
⁴⁹ Then He sent them the rage of His displeasure,
By commissioning wicked angels against them...
⁵⁰ He opened the road of His anger,
And He did not spare them from death...
Why, even their cattle were chosen for death.

⁵¹ He struck all the firstborn in Egypt;
He brought misery upon tents of Ham.
⁵² But like sheep, He set His people aside,
And led them into the desert like flocks.

⁵³ They weren't afraid, so He led them;
Then He covered their enemies under the sea.
⁵⁴ To His Holy Mountain, He brought them...
These ones whom He had repurchased,
By the might of His right hand.

⁵⁵ Before them, He drove away nations,
And created an inheritance for them,
Where He allowed them to set up their camps...
The tents of IsraEl's tribes.

⁵⁶ But they tested and embittered God the Most High;
For, His [Laws], they chose not to keep.
⁵⁷ They turned and annulled their [Agreement with Him],
And became crooked bows like their fathers.
⁵⁸ In their hills, they provoked Him to rage,
And made Him jealous with things that they'd carved with their hands.

⁵⁹ Because God then heard what they'd done,
He turned from IsraEl in contempt.
⁶⁰ The Tent in Shiloh, He pushed away...
The Tent where He'd camped among men.

⁶¹ Then, into captivity, He handed their strength...

Their beauty, to their enemy's hands.
⁶² He gave up His people to broadswords...
His inheritance, He then overlooked.

⁶³ Their young men were burned up in fires,
And there weren't wedding songs for their virgins.
⁶⁴ Their Priests all fell by the sword,
And no one wept for their widows.

⁶⁵ Then Jehovah awakened from slumber,
As a Mighty One who was dizzy from wine.
⁶⁶ He struck their enemies and made them retreat,
Appointing them to scorn through the ages.

⁶⁷ The tent of JoSeph, He had rejected,
And Ephraim's tribe, He didn't select.
⁶⁸ It was Judah's tribe that He chose,
And Mount Zion would be the place that He loved...
⁶⁹ For it's where His Most Holy would be built.
So He laid its foundation out on the ground,
[As something to last] through the ages.

⁷⁰ Then He chose David, His servant,
And took him away from his flocks.
⁷¹ He left [sheep] giving birth, to tend Jacob...
God's inheritance... IsraEl, His servant.
⁷² He cared for them with an innocent heart,
And with skillful hands, he then led them.

Psalm 79

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ O God;
To Your inheritance, the nations have come...
They've defiled Your House in JeruSalem,
And turned it into a storehouse for fruit!

² The decaying flesh of Your servants,
Has become food for birds in the sky...
Yes Your holy ones became food,
For the wild beasts of the ground.

³ In [the streets of] JeruSalem,
Their blood has been poured out like water,
And their bodies have been left unburied.

⁴ We've become the scorn of those living nearby,
To be sneered at and taunted by neighbors.

⁵ O Jehovah;
How long will You let this go on?
Will You be angry forever?

How long will Your zeal keep burning like fire?

⁶ Pour out Your rage on the nations instead...
On those who don't know You and don't bear Your Name.

⁷ For, they have swallowed down Jacob,
And turned his place into ruins.

⁸ Please forget our past lawless deeds;
Send Your compassions, for we [need Your aid]!

⁹ Help us, O our Savior, God,
For the sake of Your glorious Name!

Jehovah, for the sake of Your Name,
Please save us and cover our sins,

¹⁰ So the nations may never have reason to ask,
'So now, where is your God?'

To the nations before us, make [Your Name] known...
Avenge the blood of Your servants!

¹¹ Bring an end to the moans of the shackled...
By the might of Your arm, protect them from death!

¹² O Lord;
Pay our neighbors back with seven times worse,
For scorning and speaking badly of You.

¹³ O God; We are Your people,
And we are the sheep of Your pasture.
Then through the ages, we'll tell about You...
We'll praise You through coming generations.

Psalm 80

To the director; for the changings. A testimony of Asaph. A Psalm about the Assyrians.

¹ Pay attention, you Shepherd of IsraEl;
And You (the One who sends cherubs), please come,
To JoSeph's sheep, and serve as our guide!

² Awaken before Ephraim, BenJamin, and ManasSeh,
And use Your might to bring us salvation!

³ O God, return to us once again...
Show Your face and we will be saved!

⁴ O Jehovah, God of armies;
How much longer will our prayers make You angry?

⁵ The bread of tears, You have fed us...
A measure of tears, we've been given to drink.

⁶ You've brought us war with our neighbors,
And allowed our enemies to sneer in disgust.

⁷ O Jehovah, God of armies;
Turn Your face toward us and we will be saved!

⁸ You removed Your grapevine from Egypt,
And then You drove away nations,
To provide a place for her planting.
⁹ Before her, You opened the way,
Then You sunk her roots deep in the ground.
¹⁰ You gave her mountains to shade her,
As well as branches of cedars.
¹¹ To the sea, she then spread her limbs,
And she stretched her roots toward the river.
¹² So, why have You torn down her fences,
And given her fruit to all who pass by?
¹³ For she's being destroyed by boars in the woods...
You're allowing pigs to consume her!
¹⁴ O God of armies, turn back...
Look down from the heavens and visit this vine!
¹⁵ Tend those whom Your right hand once planted...
Make these sons of men strong for Yourself.
¹⁶ She's been set on fire and dug up...
By reproach from Your face, she's being destroyed.
¹⁷ Stretch Your hand toward Your people...
Extend Your right hand toward sons of men...
Those whom You once made so mighty.
¹⁸ Don't allow this separation from You...
Give us back life, and we'll call on Your Name.
¹⁹ O Jehovah, God of armies;
Turn Your face toward us and we will be saved!

Psalm 81

To the director; for the wine vats. A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ Shout in joy to our helper, God;
Yes, call out before Jacob's Lord.
² Sing and beat on your tambourines...
Make beautiful music on harps.
³ Blow trumpets on the New Moons...
On the holy days, blow your horns.
⁴ To IsraEl, He once gave these orders
(They were the decisions of Jacob's God);
⁵ As a witness, He sent them to JoSeph
([At the time] when he went down to Egypt),
And heard a language that he didn't understand:
⁶ 'There, I removed heavy loads from your backs,
And freed your hands from serving as slaves,
Who had to tote [heavy] loads.

⁷ 'It was there that you first called upon Me,
And from their oppression, I saved you...
When you hid from the storm, I heard you,
Then I tested you at the Waters of Dispute.

⁸ 'So listen to Me, O my people,
For I will now testify.
Yes listen, O IsraEl, and hear Me!

⁹ 'No new gods may you have,
Nor may you bow before others.
¹⁰ For I am Jehovah, your God...
The One who led you from Egypt.
So now, widen your mouths and I'll fill them!

¹¹ 'But My people just wouldn't listen...
IsraEl paid no attention!
¹² So I drove them away for the things they had done,
And the things they'd conceived in their hearts.

¹³ 'If only My people had listened...
If IsraEl had followed My ways,
¹⁴ They'd not have been humbled by their enemies...
For against their oppressors, I'd have stretched out My hand.

¹⁵ 'Before Me, My enemies are now telling lies,
So the time that they have in this age will arrive,
¹⁶ When you will be fed on the fatness of wheat,
And out of the rocks, you'll suck honey.'

Psalm 82

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ God stood in the gathering of gods,
And amidst the gods, He's examined.
² 'When will You judge the unrighteous...
And [no longer] welcome the presence of sinners?
³ 'Give justice to the orphans and poor...
Be fair to the needy and humble!
⁴ Rescue the poor and those who have little...
From the hands of sinners, [you must] save them!
⁵ For, they didn't know and they didn't perceive
(Because they travel in darkness),
That the foundations of the earth will to be shaken.
⁶ I said to them, 'You are gods...
Of the Most High, you are all sons!
⁷ But, like men, you will die also,
And like their rulers, you'll fall.'

⁸ O God;
Arise and judge the whole earth;
For, You'll inherit among all the nations.

Psalm 83

An ode. A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ O God;
To whom can You be compared?
O God, do not remain silent.
² For {Look!} Your enemies have shouted their battle cries,
And those who hate You have now raised their heads.
³ Against Your people, they've planned treachery...
Against Your holy ones, they've gathered.
⁴ They're saying, 'Come, let's go and destroy them,
So they are no longer a nation...
And may IsraEl's name be forgotten!'
⁵ But, it's against You that they've met and conspired,
And now they've reached an agreement...
⁶ Those tent-dwellers of Edom,
The IshmaElites living in Moab,
Those of Hagar, ⁷ AmMon, and Gebal...
The Amalekites and Philistines,
And the peoples of Tyre.
⁸ Why, even Assyria joined with them,
And to the sons of Lot, they sent aid.
⁹ So please do to them as You've done,
To Midian, Sisera, and Jabin,
At the Wadi Kishon.
¹⁰ For, You destroyed them at EnDor,
And made them like dung on the ground.
¹¹ Make their rulers like Oreb and Zeb,
And like ZebeE and SalMona,
¹² Who once said, 'We'll inherit God's Holy Place.'
¹³ Make them like whirlwinds, O God...
Like stubble that's blown in the air...
¹⁴ Like fire that burns down a forest...
Like flames that consume on the mountains.
¹⁵ Send storms to chase them away...
Send Your rage to disturb them!
¹⁶ Fill their faces with dishonor,
So they will search for Your Name!
¹⁷ O Jehovah; make them ashamed...
Disturb them through ages of ages.

Make them all feel ashamed,
Just before You destroy them.

¹⁸ Let them know that Your Name is Jehovah,
And that You alone are the Most High!

Psalm 84

To the director; for the wine vats. By the sons of KorAh.

¹ O Jehovah of armies;
I have shown love for Your Tent,
² And I have longed for Your courtyards!

About my living God, my flesh shouts in joy,
³ For by Him, the sparrows find homes,
And doves find nests for their young.

O Jehovah of armies;
[How I long for] Your Altar;
For, You are my King and my God!
⁴ Blest are those who've stayed close to You,
And praised You throughout the ages.

⁵ Blest is the man who trusts in Your aid;
For, You will send joy to his heart.
⁶ Then, when he must enter the valley of tears,
He'll be in line for great blessings,
From the One who gave him His Laws.
⁷ He will grow stronger and stronger,
Through the God of all gods who is dwelling on Zion.

⁸ O God, Jehovah of armies...
Please hear the things that I'm praying.
⁹ Look upon me, my God and defender...
Look upon the face of Your anointed!

¹⁰ For a day that's spent in Your courtyard,
Is better than thousands of days spent elsewhere.
And I'd rather be one who's rejected,
In the House of my God,
Than to live among tents of the sinners.

¹¹ For, Jehovah is a lover of truth,
And mercy comes from our Lord!
God cares and He will send glory...
To the blameless, He'll send what is good.

¹² O Jehovah, God of armies;
Blest is the man who puts faith in You.

Psalm 85

To the director; for the sons of KorAh.

¹ O Jehovah;
You have thought well of Your land,
For You have returned Jacob's captives...
² You've forgiven the lawless deeds of Your sons,
And all of their sins, You have covered.
³ You have brought rest to Your anger,
And turned away from Your rage.
⁴ Now, turn toward us as the God of salvation...
Turn from Your anger and rage!
⁵ Will You always stay angry with us...
Will Your rage last through generations?

⁶ O God;
When You return, You'll make us alive,
And Your people will once more know joy!
⁷ O Jehovah, show us Your mercy,
And send Your salvation to us!

⁸ O Jehovah;
I will listen to all that You say,
For God will speak to His people in peace...
To those who truly are holy,
And wholeheartedly wish to return.
⁹ For He's close to all those who fear Him...
He saves, so in glory, we'll camp in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have been joined,
And justice and peace have now kissed.
¹¹ Truth has arisen throughout the land,
And justice peeks down from the heavens.

¹² Because Jehovah kindly provides,
Fruit will [grow] in our land once again,
¹³ Then, from Him, justice will flow,
And in His footsteps, we'll walk.

Psalm 86

A prayer of David.

¹ Turn Your ear and listen to me, O Lord;
For I am poor and in need.
² Watch over my life, because I am pure...
God save Your servant who's trusting in You!
³ O Jehovah; show mercy on me,
And I'll call out to You all day long.
⁴ Bring joy to the life of Your servant;
For to You, I have lifted my soul.
⁵ You're my provider, O Lord...

You are merciful and patient,
With all who are calling to You.

⁶ Give ear to my prayer, O Jehovah,
And heed my voice as I beg.

⁷ In the day of distress, I called out to You,
And to me, You paid close attention.

⁸ O Jehovah;
Among all the gods, You're unequaled...
There are none that can do what You do.

⁹ So You'll make all the nations bow before You,
And Lord, they'll glorify Your Name.

¹⁰ For You are great and You perform wonders...
You are the only [true] God.

¹¹ Guide me, O Lord, in all of my ways,
And I will walk in Your truth.
Let my heart rejoice, O my God,
And I will give praise to Your Name.

¹² Jehovah, my God, I will praise You...
With my whole heart, I'll glorify Your Name.

¹³ For Your mercies toward me have been great,
And from place of the dead You've rescued my soul.

¹⁴ But the lawless have risen against me, O God...
They've ignored You and gathered to kill me.

¹⁵ Yet, You are patient, Jehovah my God...
You have shown mercy, pity, and truth.

¹⁶ So now, look upon me... show mercy!
Show Your might on behalf of Your child...
Save the son of your slave girl...

¹⁷ Give me a sign that [You're with] me,
And let those who hate me see it in shame.
For You, O Jehovah, have helped me,
And You have provided me comfort.

Psalm 87

To the sons of KorAh; a Psalm of an ode.

¹ It's established on His Holy Mountain;

² And the gates of Zion are more loved by the Lord,
Than all the rest of Jacob's tents.

³ So, glorious things have been said about you,
O holy city of God.

⁴ To Babylon and RaHab, I'll speak,
As well as to all those who know me.
{Look!} I'll speak to Philistines and peoples of Tyre,

And to the Ethiopians, I'll say:
⁵ 'A man will call Zion his mother,
For men have been born on her heights.
⁶ It's been described that way in the writings of men,
Who told of the kings that were born there.'
⁷ For all of these reasons, let them rejoice...
All those who are dwelling within her!

Psalm 88

For the director; an ode. A Psalm by the sons of Korah to be played on the harp. The contemplation about Heman, the IsraElite.

¹ O Jehovah, my Savior and God;
During the night, I'm calling to You.
² My prayer is ascending to You,
So, hear the things that I'm begging.
³ With all kinds of trouble, my soul has been filled,
And my life is approaching the grave.
⁴ I've been numbered with those in the pit...
A man with no cure, I've become.
⁵ I am free, like one of the dead...
Like one who's been killed and tossed in a tomb.
I'm someone that You have forgotten...
From Your hand, they took me and threw me away.
⁶ They've put me into the lowest of pits...
Yes, into a place that is dark,
And like the shadow of death.
⁷ For upon me, Your anger's remained,
And I have received all Your rage.
⁸ You've driven away all my friends,
And made me disgusting to them.
From them, I've been taken away,
And no other place, may I go.
⁹ My eyes are now sore from crying,
As I call to You throughout the day.
To You, I have spread out my arms...
Toward You, they are now opened wide.
¹⁰ Will those who are dead speak of Your wonders...
Will the dead arise and give praise to You?
¹¹ Will those in tombs tell of Your mercy,
And will the destroyed [speak of] Your truth?
¹² Can Your wonders be seen in the darkness...
Will Your justice be known in lost lands?
¹³ O Jehovah;

I cried out to You in the morning,
And You knew of my prayer before it was said.
¹⁴ So why, O Lord, have You pushed me away?
When will You turn Your face toward my soul?
¹⁵ I've been poor and troubled since youth...
I was humbled and left with nothing at all.
¹⁶ Upon me, You've poured out Your rage,
And sent frightful things to disturb me.
¹⁷ Like water, they had me surrounded all day,
And now they have me encircled.
¹⁸ You've driven away all of my dearest of friends,
And because of my miserable condition,
They're [pretending that] they do not know me.

Psalm 89

A Psalm of contemplation by Ethan the IsraElite.

¹ Your mercies, O Lord, last through ages,
So through generations, I'll sing about them,
And my mouth will report of Your truths.
² For, through the ages, Your mercies will grow,
And Your truths will be lifted into the skies.
³ [For You said]: 'With My anointed, I've made an agreement...
I've sworn this oath to My servant David,
⁴ That through generations, I'll provide for his seed;
And from generation to generation, I'll build on his throne.'
⁵ So the heavens will praise all your wonders, O Lord,
And among the assembly, we'll speak of Your truths.
⁶ For, who in the clouds can be equal to [him],
And which of God's sons are quite like him?
⁷ So, you councils of holy ones, glorify God,
For He's great and fearful to all who stay near.
⁸ O God of armies; who else is like You?
For, You are Almighty, Jehovah,
And You are surrounded by truth.
⁹ Of the strength of the seas, You're the Master;
For, You can calm waves when they rise.
¹⁰ You humble and kill those who have too much pride,
And drive our enemies away with Your strong arm.
¹¹ Yours is the heavens and Yours is the earth...
You founded man's home and its fullness.
¹² It's You who created the north and the west,
So Tabor and Herman are shouting Your Name!

¹³ You dominate all with Your mighty arm;
So, strengthen Your hand and raise [Your arm] high.
¹⁴ For, justice and fairness come from Your throne,
And Your face sends mercy and truth.

¹⁵ Blest are those who who are shouting in joy...
In the light of Your face, may they travel, O Lord!
¹⁶ May they shout in joy of Your Name every day,
For Your justice has lifted them higher.

¹⁷ You are the power in which they can boast,
So in praise of Your goodness, may they blow horns.
¹⁸ For Jehovah God is our helper...
The Holy One of IsraEl is our King!

¹⁹ In a vision, You spoke of Your son and You said:
'I'm sending them help through this great one I've raised...
This one that I chose from My people.

²⁰ 'I found David, My servant,
And with My holy oil, I've anointed his head.
²¹ So, with My right hand, I'll help him,
And with My right arm, I'll make him strong.

²² 'His enemies will take nothing from him,
And the lawless will do him no harm.
²³ Before him, I'll cut his enemies down,
And chase away all those who hate him.
²⁴ My truth and My mercy are with him,
And his battle horn will be raised in My Name.

²⁵ 'I'll set his [left] hand over the seas,
And put his right hand on the rivers.
²⁶ Then he'll call out to Me and he'll say,
Father, You are my God...
Yes, You are my Savior and shield.

²⁷ 'I'll appoint him to be my firstborn,
And put him over the kings of the earth.
²⁸ In mercy, I'll guard him throughout the age,
And he can trust the things that I promise.

²⁹ 'I'll establish his seed throughout the ages,
And his throne, as the days of the skies.
³⁰ But, if his sons should abandon My Laws,
And choose not to walk in My ways...
³¹ If My rules, they choose to profane,
And My Commandments, they choose not to keep...
³² For their lawless ways, I'll send them My switch,
And whip them for all of their sins.

³³ 'But in mercy, I will not wipe them away,

Nor will I do wrong to My truth.

³⁴ To My agreements, I'll always be true,
And I won't annul the things that I've said.

³⁵ For, once that I've sworn with an oath,
Could My holiness lie before David?

³⁶ 'His seed will last through the ages...
His throne will stand as long as the sun,
³⁷ And it will endure like the moon,
Which I've prepared through the ages,
As My trustworthy witness in the skies.'

³⁸ So, why have You thrust him away in contempt,
And against Your anointed, lifted [Your hand]?

³⁹ Have You wiped away the promise You made,
And defiled his safe places throughout the land?

⁴⁰ You've removed the barriers around him,
And turned his forts into places of fear.

⁴¹ Those walking the roads have taken what's his,
And he's become the scorn of his neighbors.

⁴² You've raised the hands of those who oppress him,
And given his enemies joy.

⁴³ You've turned Your help from his broadsword,
And refused to assist him in war.

⁴⁴ You've desisted from making him clean,
And torn his throne to the ground.

⁴⁵ You've shortened the days of his reign,
And upon him, You have poured shame.

⁴⁶ How long, O Jehovah, will You turn away...
How long will Your rage keep burning like fire?

⁴⁷ Please notice these problems that I'm facing!

In folly, You made sons of men,

⁴⁸ For which living man will never see death?
Can he save his own soul from the grave?

⁴⁹ Where is Your mercy, O ancient Lord...
When You swore to David, were You telling the truth?

⁵⁰ Notice the scorn that Your servant's enduring...
The scorn that nations have sent to my belly.

⁵¹ O Jehovah;
My enemies are laughing at Your anointed.

⁵² Amen... Praise Jehovah into the age.

Psalm 90

A prayer of Moses, the man of God.

¹ O Jehovah, You've been our refuge,
From one generation to another.

² Before the mountains existed,
And the earth (the dwelling of man) took its shape...
You have been through ages of ages.

³ Please don't send humiliation to humans;
For You said, 'Return to Me, sons of men!'

⁴ Why, a thousand years in Your eyes, O Lord,
Are like yesterday, after they've passed...
They're like a watch in the night.

⁵ But the years [of men] are looked on in scorn,
For like sprouting plants, they just pass away...
⁶ In the morning, they blossom and sprout,
And in the evening, they dry up and fall.

⁷ We have failed in the face of Your rage,
And we've been disturbed by Your anger.
⁸ For the Laws we've broken are all there before You,
Yes, there in the light of Your face.

⁹ Why, all of our days have been failures,
And we've even failed when it comes to Your rage.
Our years are as brief as the time that it takes,
For a spider to think [of catching its prey].

¹⁰ Our days may last for seventy years,
Or if You command, until eighty.
But they're mostly spent in misery and toil,
'Til we mellow and accept [Your] correction.

¹¹ Who knows the power of Your rage?
And because of the fear of Your anger;
How can we number our days?

¹² So, expose Your right hand to me,
And send Your wisdom into my heart,
That I may accept Your correction.

¹³ How long will it be, O Jehovah,
Until You turn back to us?
O please send comfort to Your servants!

¹⁴ For, in the morning, O Lord,
We were filled with Your mercy...
We shouted in joy and were glad every day.

¹⁵ We were grateful for even the days we were humbled,
After many years of seeing the bad.

¹⁶ So, please look down on Your servants (Your works),

And send guidance to all of our sons.
¹⁷ Send us the light of Jehovah, our God,
And bless the works of our hands...
Yes, bless the works of our hands!

Psalm 91

A Psalm of Praise by David.

¹ Those who live in the care of the Most High,
And lodge under the God of heaven's protection,
² Will say to Him, 'You're my refuge and shield...
You're my God, and in You, I trust.'
³ From the snares of hunters, He'll save you...
He'll rescue you from all your problems.
⁴ With the shadow of His back, He will shield you,
And under His wings, He will hide you...
Where you'll be surrounded by truth.
⁵ You won't be afraid of things in the night,
Of arrows that fly during the day,
⁶ Of things that happen, which you haven't planned,
Of things that travel in darkness,
Or of the demon at noon.
⁷ A thousand will fall at your right side,
And ten thousand, you'll hold in your hand.
⁸ You'll see it all with your eyes and then think,
'I'm seeing the outcome of sinners.'
⁹ Yes, O Jehovah;
You are the One in whom I put trust.
If you'll make the Most High your refuge,
¹⁰ Nothing bad will approach you,
And the whip will not enter your tent.
¹¹ For, to His messengers, He will give orders,
To watch over all of your ways.
¹² With their hands, they will lift you,
So a rock won't stumble your feet.
¹³ You can step on an asp or a cobra,
And trample on lions or dragons.
¹⁴ 'Because he trusts Me, I'll save him...
I'll be his shelter, for he knows My Name.
¹⁵ He'll cry out to Me and I'll listen...
During hard times, I will be there.
'I'll rescue and glorify him...
¹⁶ I'll extend the days of his life,
And show him the many great ways I save.'

Psalm 92

A Psalm for the Sabbath Day.

- ¹ It's good to praise You, O Most High Jehovah,
And to strum to Your Name...
² To [sing] of Your mercies each morning,
And about Your truths every night,
³ As [I strum] on my lute of ten-strings...
Playing songs of You on my harp.
- ⁴ O Jehovah; You bring me much joy,
With all the things that You do.
So I'll shout in praise of the works of Your hands.
- ⁵ How great are Your deeds, O Jehovah,
And how deep are the things that You think!
- ⁶ A foolish man will not understand,
And such things, the senseless can't comprehend;
⁷ That though sinners will keep on rising like grass,
And the lawless will keep on increasing;
They'll be destroyed through ages of ages.
- ⁸ Through the ages, You've been the Most High!
⁹ So, when you notice Your enemies, Lord,
{Look!} You'll scatter them and they'll perish...
All those who work at doing what's bad.
- ¹⁰ Like a rhinoceros, I'll raise my horn high,
And in my old age, offer plenty of oil.
- ¹¹ Though my eyes must still look upon enemies
(All those who are rising against me),
And though my ears must still hear of the wicked;
¹² Soon the righteous will blossom like palms,
And grow like Lebanon's cedars.
- ¹³ Yes, those planted in the House of Jehovah...
Those in God's courtyard, will bloom.
- ¹⁴ They will grow old and have plenty,
And take much pleasure in proclaiming,
¹⁵ That our God, Jehovah, is righteous,
And in Him, there is no injustice.

Psalm 93

For the Sabbath Day, after being resettled in the land. A song of praise by David.

- ¹ Jehovah reigns and brings beauty;
He has wrapped Himself in great power.
Man's home, He's made steady and firm,
² And He's prepared your throne to last through the ages.

³ O Jehovah, the rivers have risen...
And the waters have lifted their voices.
⁴ But the rivers will be taken away...
By the sounds of many waters, You'll wear them away.
How wonderful are the tides of the sea,
And the high places of [God].
⁵ The witness You give is trustworthy,
And to Your House, will come what is clean,
Throughout the rest of the days.

Psalm 94

A Psalm of David for the fourth Sabbath.

¹ Jehovah is a God who seeks vengeance,
And this God who seeks vengeance has spoken.
² Arise, O Judge of the earth,
And pay what is due to the haughty!
³ O Jehovah;
How much longer will the sinners remain...
How much longer will the sinners have reason to boast?
⁴ For, when they speak, they do so unjustly,
And they boast when they're breaking [Your] Laws!
⁵ O Jehovah;
They are mistreating Your people...
To Your inheritance, they're doing what's bad.
⁶ They kill the orphans and widows,
And they murder the foreigners who visit.
⁷ They've said, 'Jehovah can't see...
Jacob's God doesn't know [what we're doing].'
⁸ Look, you fools among [men]...
You should think it over, then end it!
⁹ Is the [maker] of ears unable to hear...
Is the shaper of eyes unable to see?
¹⁰ Won't He who corrects all the nations,
And teaches knowledge to men,
Also send correction to you?
¹¹ Jehovah knows the ways that men think,
And that the things we ponder are foolish.
¹² O blest is the man who's corrected by You...
Lord, please teach him Your Laws.
¹³ Back him away from his evil days,
And then he'll dig graves for the sinners.
¹⁴ For Jehovah won't push His people away...

His inheritance, He will not abandon.

¹⁵ How long until righteous judgments return...
Until those with straight hearts receive what is fair?

¹⁶ Who will oppose the wicked with me...
Who will stand and oppose the law breakers?

¹⁷ If it weren't for the help of Jehovah,
My soul would have gone to the place of the dead.

¹⁸ Did I ask for my feet to start shaking?
O Jehovah, show mercy and help me!

¹⁹ Despite all the grief in my heart;
To my soul, You've brought comfort and love.

²⁰ Will the thrones of the lawless continue before You...
Those who turn order into chaos?

²¹ Will You let them keep hunting for the souls of the righteous,
And continue to shed innocent blood?

²² Jehovah has become a refuge to me...
My God is my helper and hope.

²³ He'll give the lawless what they deserve,
And remove them from view, for their badness.

Psalm 95

A song of praise by David.

¹ Come and shout praise to Jehovah...
To God, our Savior, we'll shout!

² We should stand in His presence and praise Him...
To Him, we should sing sacred hymns!

³ For God, Jehovah, is great...
He is the great King of the whole earth!

⁴ In His hands, He holds the ends of the earth,
As well as the tops of the mountains.

⁵ His are the seas, for He made them...
And with His hands, He shaped the dry land.

⁶ So let's come and bow down before Him...
Let's weep before Him, for He's our Creator!

⁷ We're the sheep of His pasture and He is our God...
We're the sheep that He holds in His hand.

⁸ If you should hear His voice on this day,
Do not harden your hearts...
Don't be bitter as they were in that day,
When they put Him to the test in the desert.

⁹ I was tested and tried by your fathers,
Though they'd seen all the things that I'd done.

¹⁰ So I came to loathe that generation,
And they wandered for the next forty years.

'In their hearts, they knew not My ways,
¹¹ So I swore this oath in My anger:
They will not enter My rest.'

Psalm 96

¹ Sing a new song to Jehovah!
Sing to the Lord of the earth!

² Yes, you should sing to Jehovah,
And shout in praise of His Name!

Proclaim the good news every day...
The news about how He saves.

³ Speak of His glory to the nations...
Tell others about all His wonders!

⁴ Jehovah is great and worthy of praise;
He's more to be feared than all other gods.

⁵ For the gods of the nations are demons,
But Jehovah created the heavens.

⁶ Before Him are beauty and praiseworthy things...
Clean and majestic is His Holy Place.

⁷ O you families of the nations;
You should bring [gifts] to Jehovah...
To the Lord, give glory and honor,

⁸ And speak gloriously of His great Name!

Bring offerings to His holy courtyard,
And before the Lord, you should bow,
With your faces to the ground.

⁹ For with His face, He shakes the whole earth!

¹⁰ Say to the nations, 'Jehovah is King!
He's the One who established man's home,
So it will never be shaken.
And He'll judge the peoples in justice!'

¹¹ Be glad you heavens, and earth shout in joy...
May the seas and what's in them be shaken!

¹² Rejoice, O you fields and all of your crops;
And you trees in the forests should cry out in joy,

¹³ Before the face of the Lord.

For He's coming to judge the whole earth,
And bring justice to man's habitation...
Many peoples will be judged by His truth!

Psalm 97

A Psalm of David for when his [kingdom] was established.

- ¹ Shout in joy, O you earth, because the Lord reigns!
Let all of the islands be glad!
- ² He's surrounded by darkness and clouds,
And on justice and judgments, He's founded His throne.
- ³ Flames shoot out from before Him,
To burn His enemies in fire.
- ⁴ The lightning that He sent was seen by [all men].
They saw it, and it shook the whole earth.
- ⁵ Like bee's wax, the mountains have melted before Him...
Before the face of the Lord of the earth.
- ⁶ The heavens speak of His justice,
And His glory is seen by all peoples.
- ⁷ So those bowing to carvings are shamed,
As are those who boast of their idols.
For before Him, the angels bow low to their feet!
- ⁸ Zion is happy, and Judah's daughters are shouting in joy,
Over Your judgments, O Lord.
- ⁹ For, You're the Most High of the whole earth...
You're higher than all other gods!
- ¹⁰ All those who are loving Jehovah;
Must [learn] to hate what is bad!
For Jehovah guards the lives of the clean,
And from the hands of sinners, protects them.
- ¹¹ Upon the righteous, light shines,
And those with straight hearts will have reasons for joy.
- ¹² So you righteous, take joy in Jehovah...
Remember and praise all His ways.

Psalm 98

A Psalm of David.

- ¹ Sing a new song to Jehovah,
About the wonderful things He has done.
For He brings salvation with His holy right arm.
- ² Jehovah's made known to the nations,
How He can save and bring justice.
- ³ He's remembered His mercy to Jacob,
And to the house of IsraEl, He sent His truth.
To the ends of the earth, they've seen how He saves,
And they know that our God can deliver!
- ⁴ So, shout to God, all the earth!

Sing... yes, cry out, and strum!
⁵ Play to Jehovah with harps!
And along with the strumming, sing psalms!
⁶ With brass trumpets and the blowing of horns,
Shout before Jehovah, our King!
⁷ Roar, O seas, and all that's within them...
Man's home and all those who live there!
⁸ Clap your hands, O rivers,
And mountains, cry out in joy at His face.
⁹ For He's coming to judge the whole earth...
In fairness and justice, He'll judge,
Man's home and all of its peoples.

Psalm 99

A Psalm of David.

¹ Because Jehovah now reigns,
All the peoples are angry.
For the One who is sitting on cherubs,
Is coming to shake up the earth.
² Great is Jehovah on Zion,
For He is above all the peoples.
³ So, may they all give praise to His Name,
Because He is fearsome and holy.
⁴ Our Mighty King is a lover of justice,
So He has prepared righteous judgments...
Yes, He's brought justice to Jacob.
⁵ May our God, Jehovah, be raised...
He's holy, so all should bow at His feet!
⁶ Among His Priests, numbered Moses and Aaron,
And Samuel is someone who called on His Name.
They called to the Lord and He heard them,
⁷ Then He spoke to them from a column of clouds.
For, they had guarded His words,
And obeyed the orders He gave.
⁸ Yes, O Jehovah, You heard them!
O God, You became their provider,
And You punished them for the bad things they did.
⁹ So our God Jehovah should be raised high,
And before His holy Mountain, all should bow;
For Jehovah's our most holy God.

Psalm 100

A Psalm of praise by David.

¹ Shout to God, all the earth...
² Serve Jehovah in joy!
Go before Him with happy shouts...
³ Know that Jehovah's our God!
We didn't do it... He made us!
We're His people... the sheep of His pasture.
⁴ So, go to His gates shouting praises,
And enter His courtyard with hymns.
Go praising His Name and confessing;
⁵ For, through the ages, He's proven His mercy...
Through generations, He's proven His truth.

Psalm 101

A Psalm of David.

¹ O Jehovah;
I'll sing of Your justice and mercy...
² Of Your perfect ways, I will strum.
How long will it be until You return?
For, there are innocent hearts in my home.
³ I've not set my eyes on things that are bad,
And illegal things, I have hated.
⁴ Toward things that are crooked, my heart has not turned,
And men that are bad, I've rejected.
⁵ Those who privately speak ill of friends,
I have driven away.
I won't eat with those whose eyes are too proud,
Or with those who have hungry hearts.
⁶ My eyes are on the trustworthy...
They are the ones with whom I will sit...
Those who've chosen to walk in pure ways,
And those who have shared in my rule.
⁷ For, no one with pride can stay in my house,
And before my eyes, the unrighteous can't stand.
⁸ In the morning, I killed the land's sinners,
And all the lawless in this city, I've destroyed.

Psalm 102

A prayer for the poor when they are discouraged and come before Jehovah to pour out their hearts.

¹ Please hear my prayer, O Jehovah...
Please listen to my cries when I come before You.
² Don't turn Your face when I need You,
But incline Your ear closer to me...
Whenever I call, please respond!

³ For my days have passed by like smoke,
And my bones are parched like dry sticks.
⁴ I have been mowed down like grass,
So my heart forgets to eat bread.
⁵ My bones stick out from my flesh,
And they're [tired] of the sounds of my groaning.
⁶ Like a pelican, I [travel] alone...
I've become like the owl in its range.
⁷ Sleepless, [I lie throughout the whole night],
And I live like a sparrow alone on the roof.
⁸ My enemies berate me throughout the day,
And those who once praised me, now swear oaths against me.
⁹ Ashes, I've eaten for bread,
And my drink has become my own tears.
¹⁰ For, with the anger and rage of Your face,
You lifted me up and then broke me down.
¹¹ Like shadows, my days have declined,
And I have dried up like hay.
¹² But you, O Lord, live through ages...
From generation to generation, You're remembered.
¹³ So, arise and feel pity for Zion,
Since the time for its pity is due.
¹⁴ To Your servants, her stones are all very dear,
And over her dust, they feel sorrow.
¹⁵ O Lord;
All nations have great respect for Your Name,
And all kings of the earth speak of Your glory.
¹⁶ For, Jehovah will rebuild Zion once more,
And there, He'll appear in His glory.
¹⁷ He [hears] the prayers of the humble,
And He has no contempt for the things they request.
¹⁸ Let this be written for each generation,
So those born anew will all praise the Lord.
¹⁹ Jehovah looks down from His home in the heights...
He looks down on the earth from the heavens.
²⁰ So He hears the moans of the shackled,
And He frees the sons of the condemned.
²¹ In Zion, announce the Name of the Lord,
And shout His praises in JeruSalem!
²² For all gatherings of the peoples, as well as their kings,
Will soon be serving Jehovah.
²³ Then, in His mighty way, He will speak...

And tell me how few of my days yet remain.
²⁴ But, please don't [give me] just half of my days;
For Your years are through generations.

(NOTE: Some of the following verses are applied to Jesus at Hebrews 1:10-12, so the words we have translated as 'the Lord' in several of these verses may not be referring to The God. And where we suspect this to be true, we have not capitalized the personal pronouns). For more information, see subheading The Question Raised at Hebrews 1:10-12 in the linked document, 'Jehovah.'

²⁵ In the beginning, you founded the earth,
And the heavens are the works of your hands.
²⁶ Yet, they will pass by, while you live,
And like clothes (an old robe), they'll grow old.
Then you'll wrap them up and they will be changed.
²⁷ But, you're the same, for your years don't expire.
²⁸ Yet the sons of your servants will live in [your] camp,
And through ages, their seed will remain.

Psalm 103

A Psalm of David.

¹ I'll praise Jehovah with my whole soul...
Yes I'll praise Him with all that is in me,
And I will praise His Most Holy Name!
² Praise the Lord, O my soul,
And don't forget how He's blest us.
³ For He's covered our sins and law breaking,
And cured us of all our ills...
⁴ He ransoms us from life's corruptions,
And then He crowns us with mercy.
⁵ He fills our desires with good things,
And like mighty eagles, brings back our youth.
⁶ For Jehovah freely provides,
And He sends justice to those who've been wronged.
⁷ To Moses, His ways were revealed,
And to IsraEl's sons, He's shown what He wants.
⁸ Jehovah feels pity and mercy;
He's forgiving and filled with compassion.
⁹ To the end, you won't make Him angry,
Nor through the ages, will He cherish wrath.
¹⁰ He hasn't repaid us for our lawlessness deeds,
Nor has He kept count of our sins.
¹¹ As high as the heavens are over the earth,
Is His mercy to all those who fear Him.
¹² And as the distance between east and west,
Has He set us from the laws that we've broken.

¹³ As a father shows mercy upon his own sons,
Is how He feels mercy for those fearing Him.
¹⁴ For, He remembers how we were formed,
And He doesn't forget that we are just dust.
¹⁵ For the days of a man are like grass,
Or like the blossoms of flowers in a field.
¹⁶ For, when the wind blows, he passes away,
And his place is thereafter forgotten.
¹⁷ God shows ages of mercy to those fearing Him,
And justice to the sons of their sons...
¹⁸ On all those who guard His Sacred Agreement,
And on those who obey His Commandments.
¹⁹ Jehovah has prepared His throne in the skies,
And in His Kingdom, He's the Master of all.
²⁰ So, praise Jehovah, you angels;
For He shows His might and His strength,
To those who give heed to His words.
²¹ Yes, praise Jehovah, His armies...
All His servant who are doing His Will.
²² Praise Jehovah, all His works...
Every place within in His dominion.
Yes, praise Jehovah, my soul!

Psalm 104

A Psalm of David

¹ O my soul; give praise to the Lord!
Yes, give praise Jehovah, my God!
You've made Yourself great and praiseworthy,
And clothed Yourself in much beauty.
² You wrap Yourself up in light like a robe,
And stretch out the heavens like leather.
³ With water, You've filled its roof and upper rooms,
And as Your chariot, You made the clouds,
Which You ride on the wings of the winds.
⁴ Your angels, You've made like the winds,
And Your servants are like flames of fire.
⁵ The foundation of the earth, You laid and made firm,
So through ages of ages, they will not fail.
⁶ The depths [of the seas] are Your wrap,
And on the mountains, You have piled water.
⁷ But, at Your reproach, they will all pass away...
They'll quake at the sound of Your thunder.

⁸ Then the waters will pour down the mountains,
And descend from there to the plains...
To wherever You tell them to go.

⁹ You've set limits that [water] may not pass,
So it may not cover the land.

¹⁰ You send it as springs into valleys...
So, from the mountains, rivers will flow.

¹¹ [You sent it] to water wild beasts in the fields
(Wild burros that use it to satisfy thirst),

¹² And to the winged creatures that live in the skies,
That build their nests between rocks,
Where they can sound out their calls.

¹³ You send water to the mountains from Your upper rooms,
To fill the lands with the fruits of Your works...

¹⁴ To make grasses grow for the cattle to eat,
And young sprouts, as bread from the ground.

¹⁵ [You give] wine to men to make their hearts glad;
And to bless their faces, you send olive oil.
Then, for their hearts, You provide them with bread.

¹⁶ The plains, You have filled up with [trees],
And the cedars of Lebanon were Your planting.

¹⁷ It's there that the sparrows build nests,
Until herons take over their dwellings.

¹⁸ [You created] high mountains for wild goats to roam,
And made rocks as the refuge for badgers.

¹⁹ You made the moon to show us the seasons,
As well as the sun, which knows when to set.

²⁰ You made the darkness of night,
When beasts in the woods roam about;

²¹ It's when lion cubs roar and attack,
Seeking by God, to find themselves food.

²² But, when the sun rises, they gather,
And return to their dens to lie down.

²³ That's when men arise and then go to work,
Continuing their toil until dusk.

²⁴ How great are Your works, O Jehovah;
In Your great wisdom, You've made it all...
You've filled the whole earth with creations.

²⁵ You made the vast lands and the great seas,
Where animals that slither may live.
There's no way to count all Your creatures...
All the great and the small.

²⁶ Why, boats pass over [other] wild beasts,
Which You created in fun.
²⁷ Yet they all expect to be nourished by You,
And to receive it at the right time.
²⁸ So, when You provide, they receive it...
You open Your hand and they're filled with what's good.
²⁹ But if You turn Your face, You'll upset them;
And if you should hold back their breath,
They'll expire and go back to the dust.
³⁰ They're created if You send them Your Breath,
And when You renew the face of the earth.
³¹ So may the glory of Jehovah last through ages,
And may He find joy in the things He has made.
³² He looks down on the earth and it trembles...
He just touches the mountains and they smoke.
³³ So, with my whole soul, I'll sing to Jehovah...
As long as I live, I'll strum to my God.
³⁴ May He find my verses delightful...
May they make Jehovah's heart glad.
³⁵ May all the sinners expire from the earth,
And may all the lawless cease to exist.
Praise Jehovah, O my soul!

Psalm 105

¹ Praise Jehovah... call on His Name!
Tell all the nations of the things He has done!
² Sing to Him... yes strum!
Describe His wonders to them!
³ Applaud His most holy Name!
May the hearts of those who seek Him be glad!
⁴ Seek Jehovah and you will grow strong...
Always search for His face.
⁵ Don't forget the wonders He's brought...
The miracles and judgments that come from His mouth.
⁶ You seed of AbraHam... His servants;
You sons of Jacob... His chosen;
⁷ He is Jehovah our God;
His decisions are [seen] throughout the whole earth.
⁸ He's remembered His Agreement through the ages...
His promise through a thousand generations...
⁹ The Agreement that He made with AbraHam,
And the oath that He gave to IsaAc.

¹⁰ With Jacob, He set out the rules,
For IsraEl [to follow] through the ages,
¹¹ When He said, 'To you, I will give CanaAn's land...
Your inheritance is a measured allotment of ground.'

¹² [Back then], their numbers were few
(Not many were visiting [the land]),
¹³ And they traveled from nation to nation...
From one kingdom on to another.

¹⁴ He allowed no one to harm them...
He sent warnings to their kings and He said:
¹⁵ 'Do not touch My anointed,
And don't do harm to My Prophets.'

¹⁶ Then, to their lands, He sent famine,
So they could not trust in their bread.
¹⁷ And a man named JoSeph, He sent them...
A slave who'd been purchased [with money].

¹⁸ He'd been humbled, with shackles on his feet,
And his soul had been pierced through by iron;
¹⁹ But when the word finally arrived,
Signs from the Lord purified him.

²⁰ For the king sent word to release him...
A ruler of the peoples, set him free.
²¹ He made him the master of his whole house...
In charge of all his possessions.

²² So he appointed rulers, as he saw fit,
And for wisdom, he sought aid from the elders.

²³ Then IsraEl traveled to Egypt...
Ham's land was visited by Jacob.

²⁴ There, his people grew greater...
Mightier than their enemies, [God] made them.
²⁵ Then He brought a change to [Egyptian] hearts,
So they'd start hating His people,
And with His servants, deal badly.

²⁶ But He sent His servants, Aaron and Moses
(Those whom He chose for Himself),
²⁷ And through them, He sent the [Egyptians] His signs...
To the land of Ham, He sent miracles.

²⁸ He sent darkness and it became dark,
But against His words, they chose to rebel.
²⁹ So He changed their waters into blood,
And He killed off all of their fish.

³⁰ Then, frogs crawled onto their land,

And into the closets of kings.

³¹ He spoke, and stable flies came,
Followed by fleas, to their borders.

³² Into hail and fire, He turned their rain,
Which burned throughout the whole land.

³³ Then He struck their grapevines and figs...
He broke every tree in their land.

³⁴ He spoke, then locusts and grasshoppers came...
So many, they couldn't be counted,

³⁵ Which devoured all the grass and the fruit in their land.

³⁶ Then He struck [all of] their firstborn...
The first-fruits of all they'd accomplished.

³⁷ And with silver and gold, He led us away;
So our tribes were no longer poor.

³⁸ Egyptians were happy to see us just go;
For with fear, they'd been overcome.

³⁹ Then He spread out a cloud to protect us,
And sent fire as our light through the night.

⁴⁰ We asked Him for [meat], so He sent us quail,
And with bread from the sky, we were filled.

⁴¹ He tore open the rock and water poured from it;
So a river then flowed through the desert.

⁴² For His Holy Word, He remembered...
What He'd said to Abraham, His servant.

⁴³ He led out His people shouting in joy...
Those whom He chose, left there happy.

⁴⁴ Then He gave us the lands of great nations...
We inherited things for which others had worked.

⁴⁵ So, we should now guard His decisions,
And always search for His Laws.

Psalm 106

Praise Jah!

¹ Praise Jehovah, because He provides,
And His mercies last through the ages.

² Who will tell of His mighty deeds,
And speak out loud in His praise?

³ Blest are those who are honest,
And do what's righteous each season.

⁴ O Jehovah, please don't forget us,
Or the kindness that You've shown to Your people.
Visit us and bring us salvation!

⁵ Your elected find joy in seeing what's good,
And Your people should loudly applaud,
The inheritance You've assigned them by lots.

⁶ But, we and our fathers have sinned...
We've broken [Your] Laws and done wrong!

⁷ Why, even our fathers in Egypt,
Did not understand all Your wonders,
Nor did they remember Your mercy.

For they had even rebelled,
While going down through the Red Sea.

⁸ Yet, You saved them because of Your Name,
And made everyone know of Your power.

⁹ You scolded the Sea and it dried,
Then You guided them through that abyss,
[And led them up] into the desert.

¹⁰ You saved them from those by who disliked them...
You ransomed them from their enemy's hands.

¹¹ Then You covered their oppressors with water,
Leaving not a single survivor.

¹² When they trusted Your Word, they were blest;

¹³ But they quickly forgot what You'd done,
And they failed to await Your instructions.

¹⁴ They wanted the things they desired,
And they tested You in the desert.

¹⁵ Then He gave them the things for which they had asked,
And sent them enough to satisfy them.

¹⁶ But then they provoked Moses to rage,
As well as [God's] holy one, Aaron.

¹⁷ So [God] opened the earth, and Dathan was swallowed,
Then it covered all of AbiRom's group,

¹⁸ As a fire blazed in the midst of the camp,
And its flames consumed all the sinners.

¹⁹ Then they made a [gold] calf in that dry place,
And they bowed to the thing that was carved.

²⁰ They changed [God's] Glory to a calf that eats grass,

²¹ Forgetting their God who had saved them...
The One who did great things in Egypt,

²² With the wonders [that He'd sent] to Ham's land,
And His awesome deeds at the Red Sea.

²³ So He spoke and said He'd destroy them;
But, Moses (His chosen) stood there among them...

All those whom God wished to destroy.
[Then Moses] approached Him to turn back His rage,

So He wouldn't wipe them away.

²⁴ Yet, they looked with contempt on that glorious land,
And they didn't trust the things that He said.

²⁵ So they stood in their tents and they grumbled,
Refusing to hear the voice of the Lord.

²⁶ Thus against them, He then raised His hand,
To throw them down in the desert...

²⁷ To send their seed to the nations,
And scatter them to many places.

²⁸ For they also bowed to BaAl Peor,
And sacrifices to the dead, they consumed.

²⁹ They did all they could to provoke Him,
And to bring more blows on themselves.

³⁰ Yet, PhineHas stood and offered atonement,
And abated [God's plans to] destroy them.

³¹ As the result, he was thought of as righteous,
Through all generations and ages.

³² Then they made Him angry once more,
There at the Waters of Dispute,
Where a bad thing happened to Moses.

³³ For they made his spirit grow bitter,
And then he drew open his lips.

³⁴ Thereafter, they failed to destroy all the nations,
As Jehovah had told them to do...

³⁵ They mixed with the nations and learned of their ways,

³⁶ Bowing to their idols, to offend Him,

³⁷ And offering their sons and daughters to demons!

³⁸ They poured out innocent blood...

The blood of their own sons and daughters.

To the carvings of CanaAn, they sacrificed them,

And polluted the land with murder and blood.

³⁹ [So the land] was defiled by the things they had done,
And they became practicing whores.

⁴⁰ Thus, Jehovah became enraged with His people...

His inheritance, He started to hate.

⁴¹ So He gave them into their enemies' hands...

Those who hated and ruled over them.

⁴² He allowed their enemies to oppress them,

And humble them under their hands.

⁴³ Though He came back to save them time and again,

They kept on making Him angry.

All they did was talk back;

So, they were humbled for the bad things they did.

⁴⁴ Yet, when He saw how they were oppressed,
He listened to the things that they begged.

⁴⁵ He remembered His Sacred Agreement,
And mercifully turned to them once again...

⁴⁶ Before those by whom they'd been captured,
He showed His compassion upon them.

⁴⁷ O Jehovah our God, please save us,
And gather us back from the nations,
So we may praise Your most Holy Name,
And boast about You, once again!

⁴⁸ O praise Jehovah through ages of ages!
To this, all should shout, 'May it be so!'

Psalm 107

Praise Jah!

¹ Praise Jehovah, because He provides...
His mercy endures through the ages.

² About Jehovah, this has been said,
By those whom He saved from their enemies' hands...

³ From the places from which He had gathered them back...
From the north, south, east, and the sea.

⁴ They wandered in the desert without water,
And no town could they find as their home.

⁵ So their lives were failing from hunger and thirst.

⁶ Then, in great distress, they called to the Lord,
And He rescued them from their condition.

⁷ He guided them in a straight path,
To a city that they could call home.

⁸ So, may they give praise to Jehovah,
For all the mercies [He's shown],
And the wonders that He brings to sons of men.

⁹ He sends fulfillment to empty lives,
And He fills the hungry with good things...

¹⁰ Those who sit in the shadow of death,
And the poor who are shackled in irons.

¹¹ But against God's Word, they rebelled,
And counsel from above, they rejected.

¹² So their hearts were humbled and troubled;
They were weakened and no one came to their aid.

¹³ Then, in their affliction, they called to the Lord,
And He saved them from their distress.

¹⁴ He led them from the shadow of death,
And He ripped open their shackles.

¹⁵ So, let them praise [God] for His mercy,
And the wonders that He brings to sons of men.

¹⁶ For He broke down all those brass gates,
And He smashed their iron bars into pieces.

¹⁷ He removed all of their lawless ways...
Humility, He sent in place of their pride,

¹⁸ Until they could no longer eat their own food,
And they were approaching death's gates.

¹⁹ But in their distress, they cried to the Lord,
And He saved them from their condition...

²⁰ He sent forth His word and it healed them,
And saved them from their corruption.

²¹ So, may they praise [God] for His mercy,
And the wonders that He sends to sons of men.

²² Sacrifices of praise, they should offer,
And shout in joy for the things that He's done!

²³ The men who go down to the sea in their boats,
And work across many waters,

²⁴ Have all beheld the works of Jehovah,
And His many wonders there in its depths.

²⁵ For He spoke and established the winds and the gales,
Which arise and create the tall waves,

²⁶ Which lift them high into the sky;
Then, to the abyss, they descend...
And this melts away the bad in their lives.

²⁷ For, this upsets them and shakes them,
And they swallow their wisdom like drunks.

²⁸ So, in their affliction, they call to the Lord,
And He leads them from their distress.

²⁹ He then sends His orders to the gales,
Which become just a breeze to quiet the waves.

³⁰ Then when all is stilled, they are joyful,
And He guides them toward the harbors they seek.

³¹ So, let them praise [God] for His mercy,
And the wonders He brings to sons of men.

³² Before gatherings of peoples, they should offer Him praise,
And before the seats of the elders.

³³ Though He brought a river into the desert,
And to a thirsty land, springs of water;

³⁴ The ground still bore fruit that was bad,

Because of the evil of those dwelling there.

³⁵ Yet He turned a desert into water-filled lakes,
And into dry ground, [He put] springs,
³⁶ Where He thereafter settled the hungry,
And led them to cities in which they would live.

³⁷ Then they planted vineyards and fields,
Which brought the produce of fruit.

³⁸ He blest them and they became many
(And not very few were their cattle),
³⁹ After they'd been decreased and mistreated...
Afflicted with evil and grief.

⁴⁰ Contempt had been poured on their rulers,
And they'd wandered in places without any roads.
⁴¹ But, from the needy, He removed poor conditions,
And He treated their families like His own flock.
⁴² Then, all the upright were joyful,
As the mouths of the lawless were blocked.
⁴³ So now, who has wisdom
To see the mercies of God?

Psalm 108

A Psalm of David.

¹ My heart is prepared, O my God...
In my glory, I'll now sing and play!

² Awaken my glory, my lute, and my harp,
As I am arising at dawn.

³ O Lord, among all the peoples,
I will offer You praise;
About You, I'll strum to the nations,

⁴ Because Your mercy is great...
It's higher than even the skies,
And Your truth reaches into the clouds.

⁵ May Your glory grow higher than the heavens, O God...
Yes, far above the whole earth.

⁶ Please bring salvation to Your loved ones...
Please hear me and save me with Your right hand!

⁷ In Holiness, our God spoke and said this:
'[My Name] will be lifted high.

'Now, I will subdivide SheChem,
And lay out My tents in its valley.

⁸ For, Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is Mine,
And Ephraim is the pillow for My head.

⁹ Judah [is the place of] My king,

And Moab's the kettle of My plans for Edom.

'I'll stick out My shoe [and step down],
And to Me, the Philistines will bow.

¹⁰ Can they save their fortified cities from Me?
Can they serve as My guide to Idumea?'

¹¹ Yet, O God, You pushed us away...
O Lord, won't You send us Your [angels]?

¹² In our time of oppression, send aid;
For the salvation of man has no value.

¹³ Only through God will we have any strength...
Only He can show our enemies contempt.

Psalm 109

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ O God of my praise, don't stay silent!

² For, sinners and liars have spoken against me.
They speak against me with tongues of deceit,
³ And with hateful words, they surround me.

⁴ They battle with me for no reason...
Instead of love, they send slander!
So to You, I will lay out my prayer.

⁵ Instead of good, they bring bad,
And show hate [in return for] my love.

⁶ So, send them away with the sinners,
And put the Slanderer at their right hand.

⁷ When they're judged, may they leave condemned,
And may their prayers be thought of as sins.

⁸ May their days no longer be many,
And may others take their positions.

⁹ May all their sons become orphans,
And may their wives become widows.

¹⁰ Let their sons wander and beg...
May they be driven away from their homes.

¹¹ May bankers search for the things that they own,
And may strangers loot all for which they have worked.

¹² Let there be no one to shield them;
May no one pity their orphans.

¹³ May their children be all wiped away;
In a generation, may their names disappear.

¹⁴ May Jehovah remember the sins of their fathers;
May the sins of their mothers not be erased.

¹⁵ May they stand [in judgment] before You, O Lord...

May their memory be gone from the land.

¹⁶ For, they forgot to show mercy,
And pursued a man who is needy and poor...
To kill someone whose heart has been broken.

¹⁷ Since they loved curses, may they get them;
Since they offered no blessings, may they go far away.

¹⁸ They wore curses as though they were robes...
They poured like water from within,
And became like oil in their bones.

¹⁹ So, may they wear them like robes...
May they wear them like belts on their waists.

²⁰ May this be the reward from Jehovah,
For all those [guilty of] slander,
And those who speak bad of my soul.

²¹ O Lord, Jehovah, please help me,
For the sake of Your Name and Your mercy.

²² Rescue me, for I'm poor and in need,
And my heart is deeply disturbed.

²³ Like a passing shadow, I've been removed...
I've been [eaten] away as by locusts.

²⁴ My knees are now weakened from fasting,
And for lack of oil, my flesh has been changed.

²⁵ To them, I'm someone to laugh at...
They look at me and just shake their heads.

²⁶ So, help me, Jehovah, my God;
Please do so in Your great mercy,

²⁷ And let them know that this came by Your hand...
That it's You, O Jehovah, who did it!

²⁸ Upon themselves, may their curses fall,
As You, [my God], send [me] blessings.
May those who rise against me be shamed;
But, may Your servant find joy.

²⁹ On those guilty of slander, bring shame...
Wrap them in shame as though it were clothes.

³⁰ Then, I will offer You praises, O Lord...
With my mouth, I'll praise You to many.

³¹ [God] stands at this poor one's right hand,
To save me from those pursuing my soul.

Psalm 110

A Psalm of David.

¹ Jehovah said this to my lord:

'Sit here at My right hand,
Til I set your enemies as a stool for you feet.
² A powerful scepter, I'll send you from Zion,
And amidst your enemies, you'll rule.
³ In the day of your power, you'll be the sovereign,
And your holy ones will then shine.
For, since the time that you came from the womb,
I made you the [bright] morning star.'
⁴ This oath was sworn by Jehovah,
For which He will never repent:
'You are a Priest through the age,
In the order of MelchiZedek,
⁵ And at My right hand, you will sit.
'In the day of your anger, you'll shatter kings;
⁶ And over the nations, you'll be the judge.
'Then you'll fill their [lands] up with corpses,
And you'll shatter many heads on the earth.
⁷ From the [Kidron] Wadi, you'll drink,
And there, you'll raise your head high.'

Psalm 111

Praise Jah!

¹ I'll praise You, Jehovah, with my whole heart,
And Your instructions, [I'll share with] the righteous.
² The deeds of Jehovah are great,
And He searches for those whom He loves.
³ Majestic and worthy are the things that He does,
And through ages of ages, His justice endures.
⁴ He's made His wonders so they'd be remembered;
Jehovah shows pity and great empathy.
⁵ He nourishes all those who fear Him,
And through ages, remembers His Sacred Agreement.
⁶ His powerful deeds, He's announced to His people,
And they will inherit the nations.
⁷ The works of His hands are all just and true,
And His Commandments are very trustworthy.
⁸ His truth and uprightness are fixed,
So they'll last through ages of ages.
⁹ He will ransom His people,
And through the ages, He'll give them instructions,
Concerning His Holy Sacred Agreement,
And of how His Name should be feared.

¹⁰ Wisdom starts with the fear of the Lord,
And those who take this [to heart],
Will be understanding and good.
They will be praised through the age,
And on through the age of the ages.

Psalm 112

Praise Jah.

¹ Blest is the man who fears [God],
And greatly desires His Commandments.
² His seed will grow strong on the land...
For generations, his righteous ways will be blest.
³ Glory and wealth will dwell in his home,
And through the age of the ages,
His righteous ways will endure.
⁴ For the upright, He lights up the darkness,
⁵ And to the righteous, shows pity and mercy.
⁵ Those who are kind feel compassion and lend,
And manage their matters uprightly.
⁶ So, through the ages, they will endure;
For the righteous are always remembered.
⁷ They won't be afraid of bad news,
For they've readied their hearts to trust in the Lord.
⁸ And because their hearts are so sure,
They'll not be in fear of their enemies.
⁹ They contribute to those who are needy,
And through the ages, they prove to be just;
So their trumpets will be lifted in glory.
¹⁰ In anger, the sinners will see this...
They'll grind their teeth and then just melt away,
Along with the things they desired.

Psalm 113

Praise Jah.

¹ His servants should all praise Jehovah...
Yes, praise the Name of the Lord.
² May the Name Jehovah, be praised,
Both now and into the ages.
³ From the time the sun rises until it descends,
It praises the Name of the Lord.
⁴ For, Jehovah is high above all the nations,
Since His glory exists in the heavens.
⁵ Who else is like Jehovah, our God,

The One who dwells in high places?
⁶ To the humble, He pays close attention...
Both those in the heavens and those on the earth.
⁷ He raises the poor from the ground,
And from cesspools, He raises the needy.
⁸ Then He sits them next to the rulers...
Those who are over His people.
⁹ He provides homes for the childless,
And large houses for those who have many.

Psalm 114

Praise Jah.

¹ After [the nation of] IsraEl left Egypt,
And the house of Jacob fled the barbaric;
² Judah became [God's] Most Holy Place,
And IsraEl was His power to accomplish.
³ The sea beheld them and then moved away;
The Jordan turned around and flowed backward;
⁴ The mountains started leaping like rams;
And the hills were behaving like lambs.
So what is it with you, O sea...
Why did you turn back before them...
Yes, why did you move away?
O Jordan, why did you flow backward...
⁶ Mountains, why were you leaping like rams...
And Hills, why were you behaving like lambs?
⁷ In the presence [of God], the ground rattled...
It shivered before Jacob's God.
⁸ For, from a rock, He brought water,
And from stone, He chiseled a spring.

Psalm 115

The Idols.

¹ Don't do it for us, O Jehovah...
Don't do it just for our sakes!
[Rather, do it] to glorify Your Name,
And to show everyone Your mercy and truth,
² So the nations won't have any reason ask,
'Where now, is your [great] God?'
³ Our God dwells in the heavens,
And on the earth, He does as He pleases,
⁴ While the nations worship idols of silver and gold...
Things that are made by men's hands.

⁵ These idols have mouths that can't speak;
They also have eyes that can't see;
⁶ Ears they have that can't hear;
And their noses smell nothing at all.

⁷ They have hands with which they can't grab things;
And though they have feet, they can't walk,
Nor can they speak with their throats.

⁸ So, let those who made them, be like them,
As well as all those who bow before them.

⁹ The house of IsraEl puts faith in Jehovah,
For, He's their defender and helper.

¹⁰ The house of Aaron puts its hope in the Lord,
For, He's their defender and helper.

¹¹ All those who are fearing Jehovah,
Are those who put trust in their Lord,
For, He's their defender and helper.

¹² Jehovah remembered and blest us...
The house of IsraEl, He's blest,
And the house of Aaron, He's blest...

¹³ He has blest both the great and the small,
Who have put trust in the Lord.

¹⁴ May Jehovah provide for you and your sons...
¹⁵ May you all be blest by the Lord...
The One who created the heavens and earth.

¹⁶ For the heavens belong to Jehovah,
But to sons of men, He gave the earth.

¹⁷ The dead will not praise You, Jehovah,
Nor will those going down into the grave.

¹⁸ It is only the living who will offer You praise,
Both now and into the age.

Psalm 116

Praise Jah.

¹ I love the fact that Jehovah will hear
The sounds of the words in [my prayers].

² He has leaned His ears down to hear me,
So I'll call upon Him through the rest my days.

³ In the pangs of death, I was wrapped,
And fear of the grave had me surrounded,
So I was afflicted and grieved.

⁴ But I called out in the Name the Lord:
'O Jehovah, please rescue my soul!'

⁵ Merciful and just is the Lord,
For our God is One who shows mercy.
⁶ And this Lord who has humbled and saved me,
Also keeps watch over infants.
⁷ O my soul; return to your restful state,
For Jehovah has watched over you.
⁸ O my soul; He has saved you from death,
And He has removed the tears from your eyes.
By keeping your feet from taking wrong steps.
⁹ To Jehovah, I wish to be pleasing,
And to be found in the land of the living.
¹⁰ I was proud and that's why I spoke;
But thereafter, I learned to be humble
¹¹ For in ecstasy, I'd once said,
'Every man is a liar.'
¹² With what can I repay Jehovah,
For all that He's done for me?
¹³ I'll accept His cup of salvation,
And call on the Name of the Lord.
¹⁴ My vows to Jehovah, I'll render,
Before all of His people.
¹⁵ For, when His holy ones die,
[They aren't forgotten] by God.
¹⁶ O Jehovah, I am Your servant...
The son of Your female slave.
It is You who tore off my shackles,
¹⁷ So sacrifices of praise, I'll offer to You
As I call on the Name of the Lord.
¹⁸ I will pay whatever I vow to the Lord,
There in front of His people,
¹⁹ In [His] Temple courtyard,
In JeruSalem's midst.

Psalm 117

Praise Jah.

¹ Praise Jehovah, you nations.
May He be praised by you all.
² For His mercy upon us is strong,
And His truth endures through the ages.

Psalm 118

Praise Jah.

¹ Praise Jehovah, because He is good,

And His mercies endure through the ages.

² May the house of IsraEl say, 'He is good,
And His mercies endure through the ages.'

³ May Aaron's house say, 'He is good,
And His mercies endure through the ages.'

⁴ May those fearing Jehovah say, 'He is good,
And His mercies endure through the ages.'

⁵ In my time of distress, I called to the Lord,
And He answered my prayers in great ways.

⁶ Jehovah's my helper, so I will not fear;
For, what can men do to me?

⁷ And because Jehovah's my helper,
I will also judge those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to yield to Jehovah,
Than to give in to men.

⁹ It is better to hope in the Lord,
Than to put trust in your rulers.

¹⁰ Many the nations once had me surrounded,
But in the Name of the Lord, I pushed them away.

¹¹ They once had me encircled;
But, though they had me surrounded,
In the Name of Jehovah, I pushed them away.

¹² As bees on a comb, I was covered;
But, they were consumed like thorn bushes...
In the Name of the Lord, I pushed them away.

¹³ I was stabbed and fell flat on the ground,
Then Jehovah took hold of my [hand].

¹⁴ So, Jehovah's my strength and my song of praise...
He has become my Salvation.

¹⁵ He's the voice of shouting in joy,
And a Savior in the tents of the righteous.

Jehovah's right hand showed its power,

¹⁶ And by His right hand, I have been raised...
The Lord's right hand showed its might;

¹⁷ So I'll not die, I will live!
And I'll speak of the works of Jehovah.

¹⁸ By Jehovah, I was once corrected,
And He didn't hand me over to death.

¹⁹ The gates of justice were opened to me,
So through them, I'll walk and confess to the Lord.

²⁰ For, this is the gate of Jehovah,
Through which all the righteous will pass.

²¹ Because You heard me, I will confess...
Yes, because You're my Savior.

²² The stone that the builders rejected,
Has become the chief cornerstone...
²³ It's by Jehovah that this came to pass,
And it's a wonderful thing in our eyes.

²⁴ This day was made by Jehovah,
And for it, we'll cry out in joy:
²⁵ 'O Jehovah, please save us!
O Lord, please bless all our ways!
²⁶ And blest is this one who comes in God's Name...
In the House of Jehovah, we'll praise him!'

²⁷ Our God Jehovah is shining upon us;
So, gather for a great holiday!
Come with many sacrifices,
To present on the horns of the Altar.

²⁸ You're my God, and I will confess,
That You are my Lord, so I'll hold You high.
I'll confess that You have listened to me,
And explain that You are my Savior.

²⁹ I'll confess to Jehovah, because He is good,
And His mercies endure through the ages.

Psalm 119

Praise Jah.

¹ Those who are spotless are blest...
Those obeying the Law of Jehovah.

² And blest are those who search for His [words]...
Those who seek Him with their whole hearts.

³ But those who practice what's lawless,
Will not walk in His ways.

⁴ You've told us to follow Your orders,
⁵ So, straighten our paths to follow Your Laws.

⁶ Then we will never be shamed,
By failing to keep Your Commandments.

⁷ To You I'll confess, with a pure heart,
And I'll study Your judgments and justice.

⁸ I'll follow all of Your Laws,
So will You never desert me!

⁹ How can young men keep their ways straight?
By obeying Your Word with their whole hearts.

¹⁰ And with my whole heart, I've inquired of You,
So, from Your Commandments, don't push me away.

¹¹ I've hidden Your prophecies inside my heart,
So against You, I will not sin.
¹² May You be praised, O Jehovah...
Please teach me [all of] Your ways!

¹³ With my lips, I'll declare the decisions,
Which have come from Your mouth.
¹⁴ I've found delight in the things that You've said,
And I view them as greater than wealth.

¹⁵ Upon Your Commandments, I'll meditate,
And I'll contemplate all of Your ways.
¹⁶ I'll also think of Your Laws,
And never forget the things that You've said.

¹⁷ Bless and enliven Your servant,
And I will do as You've said.
¹⁸ Uncover my eyes and I'll contemplate,
The wonders of all Your Laws.

¹⁹ I'm just a sojourner on this earth,
So don't hide Your Commandments from me.
²⁰ For my soul has longed for Your judgments...
They're the things that I've always desired.

²¹ You have scolded the proud,
And those who reject Your Commandments are cursed.
²² So, take away my scorn and contempt;
For of the proofs that You sent, I've inquired.

²³ But against Your servant, the rulers speak badly,
Though Your servant has pondered Your ways.
²⁴ Yes, I've thought of the proofs You've provided,
And Your Laws have been my advice.

²⁵ Though my soul has been pushed to the ground,
Your Word has kept me alive.
²⁶ My [foolish] ways, I've admitted to you,
And You have heard [all my prayers].

So, teach me Your rules ²⁷ and show Me Your Laws...
Teach me to understand them,
And I'll contemplate all Your wonders.

²⁸ My soul was asleep and indifferent;
But now, make me firm in Your words.
²⁹ Remove my ways of injustice,
And may Your Laws teach me how to show mercy.

³⁰ The way of truth, I have chosen,
And Your decisions, I haven't forgotten.
³¹ I've stuck by all Your just ways,

So Lord, please don't put me to shame.

³² Toward Your Commandments, I've run,
From the time that You widened my heart.

³³ So establish Your Laws deep within me,
And I'll follow them always, O Lord.

³⁴ Please teach me to understand,
And I will search for Your Laws,
Then guard them with my whole heart.

³⁵ Toward Your Commandments, please lead me;
For, that's what I've always desired.

³⁶ Lean my heart toward Your righteous ways,
And remove my desire for wealth.

³⁷ To my eyes, please give good direction,
So they'll never desire what is foolish.

Make me alive in Your ways,

³⁸ And give Your servant an omen of fear!

³⁹ Remove my scorn and the things that I dread,
For all Your decisions are kind.

⁴⁰ Your Commandments, I've always desired;
So, make me alive in Your righteous ways.

⁴¹ Send Your mercy to me, O my Lord,
And as You once promised, please save me.

⁴² Then I can give a reply,
To those who speak ill of me,
And I can put faith in Your words.

⁴³ Don't remove Your words of truth from my mouth,
For in Your judgments, I have raised hopes.

⁴⁴ I'll guard Your Laws through the ages,
And into the age of the ages.

⁴⁵ Because I have searched Your Commandments,
This has made my life greater.

⁴⁶ I've spoken of Your ways before kings,
And I have never been shamed.

⁴⁷ On Your Commandments, I have meditated,
And I've come to love them so dearly.

⁴⁸ I've sworn to obey all Your orders...
I've considered and loved all Your rules.

⁴⁹ Remember Your words to Your servant,
For, they have given me hope.

⁵⁰ They've given me comfort in times of shame,
And Your signs have given me life.

⁵¹ Though the proud have all been unjust,

From Your Laws, I've not turned away.
⁵² Through the age, I've remembered Your rules,
And Jehovah, they've brought me much comfort.

⁵³ Because of the sinners, I was depressed...
Those who've abandoned Your Laws.
⁵⁴ But Your rules became like music to me,
And [they're with me] wherever I go.

⁵⁵ During the night, I think of Your Name;
And Jehovah, I've followed Your Laws.
⁵⁶ All the [good] that has happened to me,
Came because I've searched for Your ways.

⁵⁷ O Lord, You're the share I was given,
And of guarding Your Laws, I have spoken.
⁵⁸ With my whole heart, I've begged to Your face:
'Show mercy on me as You promised.'

⁵⁹ Against Your ways, I once argued;
But my feet then turned toward the things that You said.
⁶⁰ I've prepared myself to keep Your Commandments,
And of them, I've not been disturbed.

⁶¹ By the cords of sinners, I've been twisted;
But, I've not forgotten Your Laws.
⁶² So at midnight, I wake up to thank You,
For Your decisions and justice.

⁶³ I'm a partner to all those who fear You...
Those who obey Your Commandments.
⁶⁴ For the earth is filled with Your mercy,
And I've been taught by Your rules.

⁶⁵ You've used Your servant to do what is good,
According to Your Word, O Jehovah.
⁶⁶ Now, teach me to know what is right,
And to trust in Your judgments.

⁶⁷ I was a sinner before I was humbled;
But since then, I've guarded Your words.
⁶⁸ You've provided for me so kindly, O Lord,
So in kindness, also teach me Your Laws.

⁶⁹ The injustice of the proud is a burden to me;
But I'll seek Your Commandments with my whole heart.
⁷⁰ Though their hearts have curdled like milk,
I have still pondered Your Laws.

⁷¹ It's good that I have been humbled by You,
So I would learn to follow Your rules.
⁷² For me, the Laws that come from Your mouth,

Are worth more than silver and gold.

⁷³ It was Your hands that made me and shaped me;
So, help me to better understand,
And to learn Your Commandments.

⁷⁴ Those who fear You, rejoice when they see me,
For I've raised their hopes through Your words.

⁷⁵ O Jehovah;
Through Your judgments, I've learned to be just,
And by Your truth, I've been humbled.

⁷⁶ May Your mercy bring comfort to me,
As You've revealed it to Your servant in signs.

⁷⁷ Show compassion on me and I'll live,
So I can study Your Laws.

⁷⁸ May the proud be shamed for treating me poorly;
For, while they have broken Your Laws,
Your Commandments, I've never forgotten.

⁷⁹ May those who fear You support me...
Those who've heard what You said.

⁸⁰ Make my heart [pure] in Your rules,
So I will never be shamed.

⁸¹ Your salvation is what I've been seeking,
And through Your words, I've raised hopes.

⁸² My eyes have failed as I've searched for Your signs;
So when will You bring me some comfort?

⁸³ Though I'm like a leather bag in the frost,
I haven't forgotten Your rules.

⁸⁴ How many more days will Your servant remain,
And when will You judge those who chase me?

⁸⁵ For lawbreakers are thinking and plotting against me,
But not by Your Laws, O Jehovah.

⁸⁶ All Your Commandments are true.
But help me, for I'm being unjustly pursued.

⁸⁷ Though they will soon wipe me out of this land,
I've never left Your Commandments.

⁸⁸ In Your mercy, please strengthen my life,
And I'll guard the words that have come from Your mouth.

⁸⁹ For, through the ages, O [God],
Your Words have been in the heavens.

⁹⁰ From one generation to another,
Your truth has always [been found] there.

You laid the foundations of the earth,

And it has continued to be.

⁹¹ It's at Your choosing that each day arrives,
For all things are under Your power.

⁹² Had I not thought of Your Law,
In shame, I'd now be destroyed.

⁹³ May I not forget Your rules through the age;
For, they have given me life.

⁹⁴ Because I'm Yours, please save me;
For I have searched for Your rules!

⁹⁵ And sinners have waited to destroy me,
Because I have followed Your ways.

⁹⁶ When I thought that I was seeing the end,
Your Commandments brought me [more] time.

⁹⁷ So I've loved Your Law, O Jehovah;
Throughout the day, they stay on my mind.

⁹⁸ You've made me wiser than my enemies,
So Your Commandments will be mine through the age.

⁹⁹ I've seen more than all those who taught me,
Because I've obeyed Your instructions.

¹⁰⁰ I've seen more than even the elders,
Because I've searched Your Commandments.

¹⁰¹ I've held back my feet from what's evil,
So I can guard all Your words.

¹⁰² From Your judgments, I've not turned aside,
And You have established my laws.

¹⁰³ How sweet to my throat are the things that You say...
They're like honey inside of my mouth.

¹⁰⁴ From Your Commandments, I've learned,
To hate the ways of injustice.

¹⁰⁵ Your Law is a lamp to my feet,
And a light to my paths.

¹⁰⁶ So I've stood before You and sworn with an oath,
To guard Your justice and judgments.

¹⁰⁷ O Jehovah, I have been pushed down.
So enliven me, as You promised.

¹⁰⁸ Voluntary offerings that come from my mouth,
Bring pleasure to me, O my Lord.
So, teach me all Your decisions.

¹⁰⁹ O Lord; my life is now in Your hands,
And Your Laws, I haven't forgotten.

¹¹⁰ Though sinners set snares in my paths,
From Your Commandments, I've never strayed.

¹¹¹ I've inherited Your proofs through the age,
And they've made my heart leap for joy.
¹¹² I've inclined my heart to follow Your rules,
Through the age, in repayment to You.

¹¹³ I have detested lawbreakers,
And I have loved all Your rules.
¹¹⁴ You are my helper and shield,
And by Your words, I've raised hopes.

¹¹⁵ Turn me away from what's wicked,
And for Your Commandments, I'll search.
¹¹⁶ Take hold of me, [as You promised] in signs...
Make me strong and don't shame to my hopes.

¹¹⁷ Send me help and I will be saved,
Then I'll always think of Your rules.
¹¹⁸ But, those who turned from me in contempt,
Have broken Your rules with unrighteous thoughts...
¹¹⁹ Yes, the sinners in the land are breaking Your Laws,
While I've loved the things that You've said.

¹²⁰ Though they nailed up my flesh with no fear of You,
I continued to fear Your decisions,
¹²¹ And brought them Your judgments and justice...
So don't save those who are treating me badly.

¹²² Keep an eye on Your servant for good...
Don't allow the proud to extort me.
¹²³ For my eyes await Your salvation,
And the sacred words of Your justice.

¹²⁴ Deal with Your servant in mercy,
And teach me Your righteous ways.
¹²⁵ Help me to know, for I am Your slave;
Then, I will teach [others] Your words.

¹²⁶ It's time to act, O Jehovah;
For they've wiped away all Your Laws!
¹²⁷ But, I have loved Your Commandments,
More than topaz or gold.
¹²⁸ I have also followed Your Laws,
And unrighteous ways, I have hated!

¹²⁹ Wondrous are the proofs that You've given,
And with my whole soul, I'll search for [Your words].
¹³⁰ For the revealing of Your words shed much light,
And they bring understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ I've opened my mouth and I've sighed;
And for Your Commandments, I've longed.
¹³² So, look upon me and show mercy...

Show mercy to those who are loving Your Name.

¹³³ Please straighten my steps toward the ways I should walk,
And by lawless ways may I never be ruled.

¹³⁴ Ransom me from extortions of men,
And I will keep Your Commandments.

¹³⁵ Show Your face to Your servant,
And teach me all of Your rules.

¹³⁶ For, streams of water will flow from my eyes,
Should I ever find myself breaking Your Laws.

¹³⁷ You are righteous, Jehovah,
And all Your decisions are straight.

¹³⁸ For You've told us [that we must be] fair,
And the things that we say must be true.

¹³⁹ Zeal for You is being [forgotten],
For my enemies don't remember Your words,

¹⁴⁰ Though the signs that You sent are blazing like fire,
And Your servant has loved them in truth.

¹⁴¹ Because of my youth, I'm shown no respect;
But Your rules, I haven't forgotten.

¹⁴² Through the ages, Your justice has been proved true,
And true are all of Your Laws.

¹⁴³ Though distress and afflictions have found me,
About Your Commandments, I've thought.

¹⁴⁴ Through the ages, Your words have been proven true;
So, please help me to comprehend them,
That I may continue to live.

¹⁴⁵ With my whole heart, I've cried out to You:
'Hear me, O Lord, and I'll search for Your rules.'

¹⁴⁶ To You, I called out, 'Please save me;
And Your righteous ways, I will follow.'

¹⁴⁷ Before midnight, I called out [to You],
And in Your words, I've put hope.

¹⁴⁸ Then, as my eyes opened at dawn,
I thought of the signs You've provided.

¹⁴⁹ In mercy, O Jehovah, please hear my voice...
In Your justice, please make me alive.

¹⁵⁰ Turn from those who unrighteously chase me;
For, they are far from Your Laws.

¹⁵¹ You are close to me, O Jehovah,
And truthful are all Your ways.

¹⁵² From the beginning, I've known of Your words,
Which stand firm like a rock through the ages.

¹⁵³ Look down and save me, so I'm not disgraced,
For I've not forgotten Your Laws.
¹⁵⁴ Judge my case and [give justice]...
For the sake of Your Word, make me alive.

¹⁵⁵ Take me away from the sinners,
For they haven't searched for Your rules.
¹⁵⁶ But, You are filled with compassion, O Lord...
With Your righteous decisions, please save my life.

¹⁵⁷ Though many are trying to drive me away,
And many are those who oppress me,
I have not turned from Your words.

¹⁵⁸ I've seen others who are lacking good sense,
And because they don't follow Your words,
They are just wasting away.

¹⁵⁹ See how I've loved Your Commandments, O Lord!
So in mercy, please grant me life!
¹⁶⁰ For Your words have been true from the start...
[Eternal] are Your judgments and justice.

¹⁶¹ Without a charge, I'm being pursued,
And my heart is in dread of Your words.
¹⁶² But I'll shout in praise if You'll send me a sign,
As one who has found great rewards.

¹⁶³ I've detested and abhorred all injustice,
And Your Law, I have always loved.
¹⁶⁴ Seven times each day, I praise Your decisions,
And I think well of Your justice.

¹⁶⁵ Peace comes to those who are loving Your Laws,
And nothing can stand in their way.
¹⁶⁶ In Your salvation, I've trusted, O God;
Because I have loved Your Commandments.

¹⁶⁷ My soul has guarded Your words...
It shows how I truly have loved them.
¹⁶⁸ I have kept Your words and Commandments...
O Jehovah; my ways are always before You.

¹⁶⁹ O Lord, please hear what I'm begging,
And help me understand all Your signs.
¹⁷⁰ If You find me worthy, please let me approach...
Save me, as You've shown through signs.

¹⁷¹ With my lips, I will sing hymns,
Whenever You teach me Your rules.
¹⁷² With my tongue, I will sing of Your omens,
And of how Your Commandments are righteous.

¹⁷³ Please send Your hand down to save me,
For Your Commandments, I've always accepted.
¹⁷⁴ Your salvation is what I have longed for, O Lord,
And I've contemplated Your Laws.

¹⁷⁵ If You'll allow me to live,
I will [continue to] praise You,
And Your decisions will serve as my guide.

¹⁷⁶ For, like a sheep, I have strayed...
As one that would have perished alone.

So, please come and search for Your servant,
For Your Commandments, I've never forgotten.

Psalm 120

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ In my despair, I called to the Lord,
And to [my prayer], He then listened.
² 'From unrighteous lips, please save me , O Lord...
[Save me] from those with deceitful tongues.

³ 'What can I give and what can I add,
When it comes to those with tongues that tell lies?
⁴ For against me, the arrows of the mighty,
Are now being sharpened in coals.

⁵ 'From them, I've traveled far, to just get away,
And in [the Valley of] Cedars, I've camped.

⁶ My soul has been forced to escape,
From these ones who hate peace...

⁷ Though I've spoken to them in peaceable ways,
They've battled with me for no reason.'

Psalm 121

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ I've lifted my eyes toward that Mountain,
From which I receive all my aid.

² For my help comes from Jehovah...
The One who made the heavens and earth.

³ He will not let your feet stumble,
For the One who keeps watch doesn't sleep...

⁴ IsraEl's protector doesn't slumber or sleep.

⁵ Jehovah's your guard and protector;
He's always at your right hand.

⁶ So by day, the sun won't beat down upon you,
Nor will the moon, during the night.

⁷ Jehovah will protect you from evil;

Yes the Lord watches over your soul.
⁸ Jehovah will guard your comings and goings,
From now and into the ages.

Psalm 122

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ I'm overjoyed when they tell me,
'To the house of Jehovah, we'll go,
² And we'll stand within JeruSalem's gates.'
³ JeruSalem was built as a city,
That we can all share together.
⁴ And the tribes of Jehovah go up there,
For this is required by IsraEl's Law.
⁵ And there sits the throne from which judgments come...
The thrones of the house of [King] David.
⁶ There you can [pray] for JeruSalem's peace,
And prosperity for all whom you love.
⁷ [Pray], 'Let there be peace for our army,
And prosperity for our fortified towers.
⁸ On behalf of my brothers and neighbors,
I pray for peace upon all...
⁹ I've come to the [House] of Jehovah our God,
To pray for good things [to come].'

Psalm 123

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ I have lifted my eyes,
To the One who lives in the heavens.
² {Look!} As the eyes of a slave
Look to the hands of his master;
And as the eyes of a handmaid
Look to the hands of her lady;
Our eyes should look to Jehovah, our God,
Until He shows pity upon us.
³ Show mercy upon us, Jehovah...
Please send mercy upon us!
For, we have been treated without respect...
⁴ Our lives have been filled with the scorn of the rich,
And the contempt of the proud.

Psalm 124

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ Unless Jehovah is with us...
² Say it, O IsraEl!

³ Unless Jehovah is with us,
The men who attack will swallow us down.
⁴ In their rage, we would then be drowned,
And the streams will have taken our lives...
⁵ Their raging waters will have taken our lives.

⁶ Praise Jehovah, because He provides...
For, we won't be given as game for their teeth.
⁷ Like sparrows, our lives will be rescued,
From the traps of men who are hunting us down.

But now their snares have been broken,
And from them, we have been rescued.
⁸ For we looked to the Name of the Lord for our aid...
The One who made the heavens and earth.

Psalm 125

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ Those who trust in Jehovah,
Are like those [who live on] Mount Zion.
For, those who live in JeruSalem,
Will stand firm through the ages.

² As she is surrounded by mountains,
Jehovah will encircle His people,
Both now and into the age.

³ He won't allow the whips of the sinners,
To [fall on the backs] of the righteous.
They won't be stretched out before them,
Or by their hands, be mistreated.

⁴ O Jehovah;
Do good for those who do good,
And for those whose hearts have been straight.
⁵ But remove those who're turning toward badness...
Take them away with the lawless, O Lord.

Peace to IsraEl!

Psalm 126

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ When Jehovah returns Zion's captives,
It will bring us great comfort.
² With joyful [cries], our mouths will be filled,
And with our tongues, we'll shout cheers.

Then those of the nations will say,
'Jehovah has shown Himself to be great,
By the ways that He's dealing with them.'

³ Yes, He has shown Himself great,
By the way that He's dealing with us,
For, He has made us all joyful.

⁴ O Jehovah, return all our captives,
As water returns to the streams in the south.

⁵ Then those who are planting with tears,
Will harvest with cries that are joyful.

⁶ Now the ones who were taken, are gone,
So those scattering seeds do so with tears.
But when they return, we'll be shouting in joy,
As we carry our sheaves [to Your Temple].

Psalm 127

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ If the house isn't built by Jehovah,
Its builders have [worked hard] in vain.
And if the Lord isn't guarding a city,
It's in vain to stay awake and keep watch...

² Though you arise early and go to bed late,
It will all be in vain.

O you who must eat bread of grief;
He will bring rest to those whom He loves.

³ {Look!} The inheritance of Jehovah is sons...
The fruit of the belly is your wage.

⁴ For the sons born to you are like arrows,
In the hands of the mighty.

⁵ So those filling their [quivers] with [sons] are the blest;
For, they will not be disgraced,
When they must stand before enemies,
Who have arrived at their gates.

Psalm 128

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ Blest are those who are fearing the Lord...
Those who walk in His ways.

² For, from the works of your hands, you will eat...
You'll be blest and all things will go well.

³ Your wives will prosper like grape vines,
Which grow on the walls of your homes.
And your sons will be like young olive trees,
As they sit at your table.

⁴ {Look!} The man who fears Jehovah is blest;

⁵ So, may He bless you from Zion.

May you all see good from JeruSalem,
Throughout the rest of your lives...
⁶ May you live to see the sons of your sons,
And on IsraEl, may there always be peace!

Psalm 129

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ Many times, they've waged war against me,
Since the time of my youth...
Say it, O IsraEl!
² Many times, they've waged war against me,
Since the time of my youth,
Yet, they've been unable to beat me.
³ Behind my back, the sinners conspired,
As they continued in their lawless ways.
⁴ But [our God Jehovah] is righteous,
For, He has chopped off their necks.
⁵ Let them be shamed and be forced to retreat...
All those detesting Mount Zion.
⁶ Let them become like grass on the roofs,
After it's pulled up and dried.
⁷ Why hasn't the harvester filled up his hands,
Or collected the sheaves to his chest?
⁸ Because, those who passed by didn't offer this blessing:
'We bless you in the Name of the Lord.'

Psalm 130

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ I cried to You from the depths, O my Lord:
² 'O Jehovah, please hear my voice!
May Your ears hear the words of my prayers.
³ 'If You look upon our lawless ways,
O Lord, who'll be able to stand?
⁴ But though we have reason to fear You,
You have covered our sins.
'Because of Your Name, I've waited for You...
⁵ O Jehovah; My soul has awaited Your word...
⁶ My soul has put hope in the Lord,
From early-watches until late at night.'
⁷ Let IsraEl put faith in Jehovah,
For in mercy, He has paid our ransom...
⁸ IsraEl, He has repurchased,
From the results of their lawless ways.

Psalm 131

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount Moriah].

¹ O Jehovah;
I haven't exalted my heart,
Nor have my eyes been too lofty.
I haven't traveled with great ones,
Nor in the wonders above me.

² I have sinned if I've failed to be humble,
But now, my life has been raised,
As one who's been weaned from his mother.
So, please ransom my soul!

³ May IsraEl put faith in Jehovah,
Both now and into the ages.

Psalm 132

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount Moriah].

¹ O Jehovah, remember [King] David,
And all of his gentle ways.

² For, he swore an oath to Jehovah...
To the God of Jacob, he made this vow:

³ 'When I enter my house and then go to bed,
⁴ Should I let my eyes fall asleep,
Or allow my eyelids to slumber
As I rest in my home,

⁵ Before I find a place for Jehovah...
A Tent for the God of Jacob [to dwell]?'

⁶ Look! We heard it was there in EphRatha;
It was found in the plains among groves.

⁷ So we went to His Tent and we bowed there,
In this place that served as the stool for His feet.

⁸ Now arise from Your rest, O Jehovah,
And visit the Chest within Your Most Holy.

⁹ Then Your Priests will make themselves righteous,
And Your holy ones will cry out in joy.

¹⁰ Because of David, Your servant;
From Your anointed, please don't turn away.

¹¹ For the Lord swore this to David as truth;
Therefore, He will never annul it:

'On your throne, I'll establish the fruit of your belly.

¹² So, if your sons guard My Sacred Agreement,
And obey all the rules that I'll teach them;
Through the ages, their sons will sit on your throne.'

¹³ Now Jehovah has chosen [Mount] Zion...
He took it as His place to dwell, and He said:
¹⁴ 'Here, I will rest through ages of ages;
It's [the place that] I've chosen and where I will stay.
¹⁵ 'I will bless the blest among her wild beasts,
And her poor, I'll fill up with bread.
¹⁶ Her Priests, I'll clothe with salvation,
And her holy ones will sing songs of joy.
¹⁷ 'There, I will raise David's trumpet,
And for My anointed, I'll prepare a lamp.
¹⁸ I'll clothe his enemies with shame,
But on him, I'll make holiness blossom.'

Psalm 133

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ {Look!} How good and delightful it is,
When brothers can all live together.
² It's like perfumed oil that runs down the beard...
Upon Aaron's beard and then down his clothes.
³ It's like the dew on [Mount] Hermon,
That runs to the mountains of Zion.
For it's there that Jehovah gave meaning,
To the blessing of life in the age.

Psalm 134

A song [to be sung] while ascending [to the Temple on Mount MoriAh].

¹ O Praise Jehovah, His servants...
Those who stand in the House of the Lord...
Those who stand in the courtyards,
Of the House of our God throughout the night.
² Raise your hands to His Holy Place,
And then give praise to the Lord.
³ May Jehovah bless you from Zion...
The One who made the heavens and earth.

Psalm 135

Praise Jah.

¹ Praise the Name of the Lord...
Yes, praise Jehovah, His servants...
² You who stand in His House...
In the courtyards of the House of our God.
³ Praise Jehovah, because He is good...
Play music to His wonderful Name.
⁴ For, He chose Jacob to be His own...

As a prized possession of IsraEl's Lord.

⁵ I know that Jehovah is great,

And our Lord is above other gods.

⁶ He's done all that's His Will in the Heavens and earth,

As well as in the sea and its depths.

⁷ He leads the clouds from the ends of the earth;

He made the lightning and rain;

And He brings the winds from His storehouse.

⁸ He struck the firstborn of Egypt...

All those from men to their beasts.

⁹ Signs and wonders, He sent to [that land]...

Upon PharaOh and all of his servants.

¹⁰ He's the One who struck many nations,

And brought death to their mightiest kings.

¹¹ There was Seon, the Amorite king,

As well as Og, king of BaShan,

And all the kingdoms of CanaAn.

¹² Then He gave us their lands to inherit...

For IsraEl (His people) to own.

¹³ O Jehovah;

Your fame [will last] through the ages...

For generations, it's how You'll be known.

¹⁴ Jehovah will judge all His people,

And His people will bring Him much comfort.

¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold...

They're just the works of men's hands.

¹⁶ A mouth they have, but they cannot speak;

Eyes they have, but they cannot see;

¹⁷ Ears they have, but they cannot hear;

Nor have they breath in their mouths.

¹⁸ So, may those who made them be like them,

As well as all those who serve them.

¹⁹ House of IsraEl, give praise to Jehovah!

And praise Jehovah, house of Aaron!

²⁰ House of Levi, give praise to Jehovah...

All those fearing the Lord, praise Jehovah!

²¹ May Jehovah be praised in JeruSalem...

Praise [the God] who tents upon Zion.

Psalm 136

Praise Jah.

¹ Let's confess to Jehovah, because He is good,

And His mercies endure through the ages.

² Let's confess to the God of all gods,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

³ Let's confess to the Lord of all lords,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

⁴ Only He does things that are wondrous and great,
And His mercies endure through the ages.

⁵ He crafted the skies with great skill,
And His mercies endure through the ages.

⁶ Over water, He raised solid ground,
And His mercies endure through the ages.

⁷ He alone made the lights [in the skies],
And His mercies endure through the ages.

⁸ He made the sun the ruler of day,
And His mercies endure through the ages.

⁹ The moon and stars, He made rulers of night,
And His mercies endure through the ages.

¹⁰ He's the One who struck the firstborn of Egypt,
And His mercies endure through the ages.

¹¹ Then from their midst, He led IsraEl,
For His mercies endure through the ages,

¹² With His arm and hand lifted high,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

¹³ Then He split apart the Red Sea,
For His mercies endure through the ages;

¹⁴ And through its midst, He led IsraEl,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

¹⁵ He shook PharaOh and his army into the sea,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

¹⁶ Then He led His people into the desert,
For His mercies endure through the ages;

¹⁷ And there, great kings, He struck down,
For His mercies endure through the ages...

¹⁸ Yes, many strong kings He destroyed there,
For His mercies endure through the ages,

¹⁹ Such as Seon the Amorite king,
For His mercies endure through the ages,

²⁰ As well as Og, king of Bashan,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

²¹ Then, as our inheritance, He gave us their land,
For His mercies endure through the ages...

²² An inheritance to IsraEl, His servant,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

²³ He didn't forget us when we shamed ourselves,

For His mercies endure through the ages;
²⁴ He ransomed us from our enemies' hands,
For His mercies endure through the ages.
²⁵ Then, nourishment for our flesh, He provided,
For His mercies endure through the ages.
²⁶ So confess to God, O you heavens,
For His mercies endure through the ages.

Psalm 137

A Psalm of David through JeremiAh.

¹ At Babylon's rivers we sat,
And wept, as we thought of [Mount] Zion.
² And there in [Babylon's] midst,
We hung our instruments upon willows.
³ For there, our captors had asked us,
To sing them the words of our psalms...
Yes, those who took us away, dared to say:
'From the odes of Zion, please sing us a song.'
⁴ But, how can we sing the songs of the Lord,
There in an alien land?
⁵ O [City of] JeruSalem;
Should I ever forget you,
May I also forget my right hand.
⁶ May my tongue stick to the [roof of my mouth],
If I ever fail to remember,
And prefer the joys of JeruSalem,
Which I had known long ago.
⁷ Remember the sons of Edom, O Lord,
When it is JeruSalem's day...
Those who said, 'Make it empty...
Cut it down to its very foundations!'
⁸ O you miserable daughters of Babylon;
Blest are those who'll repay you,
With the same sort of payment that you sent to us...
⁹ Yes, blest is the one who'll grab hold of you,
And dash your infants on rocks!

Psalm 138

A Psalm for David, by HagGai and ZachariAh.

¹ With my whole heart, I thank You, O Lord;
And I'll sing Your psalms before angels...
May You hear all the words from my mouth.
² Toward Your Holy Temple, I'll bow,
And I will give thanks to Your Name,

Because of Your mercy and truth...
[I'll sing] about Your Holy Name,
Which You have raised above all.

³ In whatever day that I call upon You,
Please quickly answer my prayer,
And give my soul the strength to endure.

⁴ Let all the kings of the earth give You thanks,
For they've heard all the words that came from Your mouth.

⁵ Then, let them sing of the ways of the Lord,
For the glory of Jehovah is great.

⁶ Though Jehovah is high [above all],
He still cares for the lowly,
While the haughty, He sees from afar.

⁷ Though I've had to walk through difficult times,
It was You who gave me the strength.
And against my enemy's rage,
You then lifted Your hands,
And with Your right hand, You saved me.

⁸ O Jehovah... repay them for me,
For Your mercy, O Lord, lasts through ages...
Don't overlook the works of Your hands!

Psalm 139

To the director; A Psalm.

¹ O Jehovah; You've tried me and known me.
² When I arose or sat down, You've known me,
And from far away, You've known all my thoughts.

³ You've traced out my path through bent grass,
And looked ahead to the ways that I'll go,
⁴ So You know there's no deceit on my tongue.

O Jehovah; there's nothing that You do not know...

⁵ Both the things that have past and the things that will be.

It was You who shaped me and made me...
You laid me out in [the palm] of Your hand.

⁶ So the knowledge of You brings me wonder and strength,
And no way can I comprehend it.

⁷ Where could I go [to hide] from Your Breath,
And where could I flee from Your presence?

⁸ If I into the sky, You would be there;
And You'll still be there by my hand,
When I go to the place of the dead.

⁹ If I could grow wings [and fly to] the dawn,

Or if I could camp at the ends of the seas,
¹⁰ Your hand would be there to guide me,
And in Your right hand, You'd hold me.

¹¹ I said, 'I'll surely be trampled by darkness,
And around me, the light will turn into night.'
¹² But the dark isn't darkness to You...
Night is as day and darkness as light.

¹³ For, You [have examined] my kidneys...
And it's You who took me from my mother's womb;
¹⁴ So, I will offer You praises.

The wonders of Your works, I've thought of in fear...
And the man within me knows this is true.

¹⁵ Even my bones weren't hidden from You,
When You made me in secret.
When I was conceived on the earth,
¹⁶ Your eyes saw me, before I was finished;
For You write the lives of all men in Your scroll,
On the day they are formed and alone.

¹⁷ How precious are Your thoughts, O my God;
They've been mighty ever since the beginning.
¹⁸ And if I were able to count them,
They'd be more than the sands [of the seas]...
Yet, when I wake up, You are still with me.

¹⁹ Please destroy the sinners, O God...
Turn [Your face] from all men of blood!
²⁰ For concerning their thoughts, You have said,
'They've acted like fools in My [land].'

²¹ O Jehovah;
Don't I hate those who hate You,
And against Your enemies, have I not shown zeal?
²² In perfect hatred, I've learned to detest them,
And they are my enemies also.

²³ So, try me, O God, and examine my heart...
Search me through and know all my paths.
²⁴ See if any lawless ways are within me,
Then, guide me in the paths of the ages.

Psalm 140

To the director; A Psalm of David.

¹ Please take me away, O Jehovah,
From all of these wicked men...
Save me from the unrighteous...
² Those whose hearts are unrighteous all day,

And are always ready for war!
³ For like snakes, they have sharpened their tongues,
And the poison of asps is under their lips.
⁴ From the hands of sinners, please guard me, O Lord...
Remove me from the unrighteous...
Those who've laid plans to stumble my feet.
⁵ For against me, the proud have hidden their snares...
Ropes, they've extended to trip me,
And obstacles, they've placed in the road.
⁶ I said to Jehovah, 'You are my God;
O Lord, please hear the voice of my prayers!
⁷ O my powerful Lord who can save me;
Stay over my head in the day of the war.'
⁸ O Jehovah;
Don't grant [the wicked] the things that they want...
Those sinners who are railing against me.
And don't leave me, so they don't grow [stronger].
⁹ Bring trouble to those who surround me,
And then, close up their lips.
¹⁰ Into coals of fire, may they now fall...
In a miserable place where they'll not rise again!
¹¹ May those who slander not prosper...
May the unrighteous hunt them like prey,
And search for great ways to harm them.
¹² I know that Jehovah keeps watch on the poor,
And defends the cause of the needy.
¹³ So, may the righteous sing songs to His Name...
May the upright dwell in [the light] of His face.

Psalm 141

A Psalm of David.

¹ O Jehovah, I've called out to You...
So, hear and pay attention as I cry.
² May my prayers rise before You like incense,
And may the raising of my hands,
Be like an evening sacrifice.
³ O Jehovah, set a watch for my mouth,
And a fortress door for my lips.
⁴ Don't allow wicked words to enter my heart,
Or for the deeds of the lawless, to give an excuse.
If I am involved in taking their things,
⁵ May the righteous correct and rebuke me.
May I not be the choice of the wicked...

May my prayers be in opposition,
To all that brings pleasure to them.

⁶ Their judges were swallowed down next to the Rock,
So, they didn't hear the sweet words I've spoken.

⁷ The ground beneath them ripped open,
And pulled their bones into their graves.

⁸ In You, O Jehovah my Lord,
My eyes have put faith in the hope,
That You will watch over my life.

⁹ Keep me away from the snares that they've made...
The obstacles set by the lawless.

¹⁰ Within their own nets, may those sinners be caught,
And may they stay there until I've passed by.

Psalm 142

A Psalm of contemplation by David about the time when he was praying in the cave.

¹ With my voice, I cried to Jehovah;
Yes, to Him, I was begging.

² I'll pour out before Him the things that I need,
And tell Him of how I'm oppressed.

³ You know that my spirit has failed me,
And they've hidden their snares on the roads that I walk.

⁴ I looked to the right and I noticed,
There was no one around whom I knew...
There was also nowhere to run,
And about my life, no one worried.

⁵ So I cried out to You, 'O Jehovah!
I'm calling to You, for You are my hope...
You're my portion in the land of the living,

⁶ So please hear the things that I beg,
For I have humbled my soul.

'Save me from those who pursue me,
Because they are stronger than me.

⁷ Lead my soul from this prison,
So I may keep praising Your Name.
Then the righteous will gather to me,
Because of the goodness You've shown.'

Psalm 143

A Psalm of David about when his son was pursuing him.

¹ Please hear my prayer, O Jehovah.
In Your truth, hear the things that I beg!
Listen to me in Your justice,

² And don't pass judgment upon me.
For I know that none of the living,
Are found to be righteous before You.

³ My enemy has chased me and humbled my soul...
My life has been cut to the ground!
Through the rest of the age, he wishes to place me,
In the darkness reserved for the dead.

⁴ The spirit within me was troubled,
And my heart was very disturbed.

⁵ Then, days of old, I remembered;
I thought of the things You have done...
Of the works of Your hands, I thought deeply.

⁶ I opened my [arms] and spread them to You;
For my life had become like a desert.

⁷ But quickly, You heard me, Jehovah...
[Before] I gave up my breath.

From me, please don't turn Your face,
So I'll not be as those who go into the pit.

⁸ May I be heard in the morning once more;
For, I have put faith in Your mercy.

O Jehovah;
Please show me the way I should go;
For to You, I have lifted my soul.

⁹ From those who hate me, please save me, O Lord;
For I've taken refuge in You.

¹⁰ You are my God, so teach me Your Will.
For Your Spirit is good and serves as my guide,
To lead me in paths that are straight.

¹¹ Because of Your Name, O Jehovah;
You will allow me to live,
And Your justice will lead me away,
From all of this pain in my life.

¹² Please send destruction to my enemies...
And please show mercy on me.
Wipe away those who're trying to kill me,
For I am [truly] Your servant.

Psalm 144

A Psalm of David to Goliath.

¹ Praise Jehovah, my God,
Who has taught my hands to fight battles,
And taught the arts of war to my fingers.

² He's my mercy, my refuge, and shield...
He's my Defender and Savior.
For, He made my people obey me,
So in Him, I've put all my hope.

³ O Jehovah;
What is man to You, that You'd make Yourself known,
Or the son of man, that You'd think about him?
⁴ For a man doesn't have any value,
And his days pass by like a shadow.

⁵ O Jehovah;
Lean down from Your heavens and come...
Then, touch the mountains and cause them to smoke.
⁶ Send down Your arrows to disturb them...
Flash lightning and drive them away.

⁷ Send Your hand down from the heights,
Then grab me and pull me out of the water...
From the sons of strangers, please save me!
⁸ For, with their mouths, they say foolish things,
And their right hands are filled with unrighteous ways.

⁹ O God;
To You, I will sing a new song,
Which I'll play on my harp of ten strings.
¹⁰ For, to a king, You have brought salvation...
Your servant David, You saved from the sword!

¹¹ From the sons of strangers, please save me.
For, with their mouths, they say foolish things,
And their right hands are filled with unrighteous ways.

¹² Whose sons are these... they're like new-planted seeds,
Which feel secure in their youth.
Their daughters are well dressed and brightly adorned...
As sumptuously as you'd see in a temple.

¹³ Their storerooms are all overflowing;
Their sheep are very prolific,
For they multiply in the streets,
¹⁴ While their oxen have grown thick [and strong].

None of their fences are broken;
None of their streams are [befouled];
And no crying is heard in their city squares.

¹⁵ Declare them blest, of whom such is true...
Blest are those whose God is Jehovah!

Psalm 145

A praise of David.

¹ I'll raise Your [Name] high, my God and my King!
Through the age and the age of the ages,
I will [sing] praises of You...

² I'll praise Your Name every day.
I'll praise Your Name through the age,
And into the age of the ages.

³ Jehovah is great and praiseworthy...
There is no end to His greatness.

⁴ From one generation to another,
Of Your works, I will sing praises,
And I will report of Your power.

⁵ I'll speak of Your majesty also,
And about Your holiness and glory;
Then, I will describe all Your wonders.

⁶ I will speak of Your power and Your fearful deeds,
And I'll describe all Your greatness.

⁷ So, the memory of all the kindness You've shown,
Will keep on growing [among them],
And of Your justice, they'll shout:

⁸ 'Jehovah is very forgiving...
He's filled with kindness and mercy.

⁹ The Lord is benevolent also...
He shows compassion in all that He does.'

¹⁰ May all Your works praise You, Jehovah...
And may all of Your holy ones praise You.

¹¹ They'll tell of Your glorious Kingdom,
And speak of the realm of Your rule.

¹² To the sons of men, may Your rule become known,
And the glory of the majesty of Your Kingdom.

¹³ Your Kingdom is a kingdom of the ages,
And your authority is through generations.

What Jehovah says can be trusted,
And His works are all very holy.

¹⁴ He gives support to the fallen,
And He re-erects all the broken.

¹⁵ To You, the eyes of all look in hope,
And You nourish them at the right times...

¹⁶ You just open Your hand,
And all living things become filled.

¹⁷ Jehovah is righteous in all of His ways,
And His works are all very holy.

¹⁸ Jehovah is near to those calling on Him...
To those who call out in truth.

¹⁹ He'll do the will of all those who fear Him...
He'll hear their prayers and He'll save them.

²⁰ For, Jehovah guards all those who love Him,
But the sinners, He will wipe away.

²¹ So my mouth will speak in praise of the Lord...
May all flesh speak well of His Holy Name.
Praise Him throughout the rest of this age,
And into the age of the ages!

Psalm 146

Praise Jah. A Psalm of HagGai and ZachariAh.

¹ O my soul; praise Jehovah!

² With my whole life, I will praise the Lord...
I'll strum to my God for as long as I live!

³ Don't put faith in your rulers,
For sons of men cannot save you.

⁴ Their breath goes out and they're gone from their land...
In that day, their thoughts pass away.

⁵ Blest are those who have Jacob's God as their aid...
Those who trust in Jehovah, his God...

⁶ The One who made the heavens and earth,
The seas and everything in them...
The One who guards truth through the ages...

⁷ The One who brings justice to those who've been wronged,
And nourishes those who are hungry.

The Lord unties all the shackled,

⁸ And to the blind, He gives wisdom.
Those who've been broken, Jehovah restores,
And He loves all those who are righteous.

⁹ The Lord guards foreigners, orphans, and widows;
But the ways of sinners, He wipes away.

¹⁰ O Zion; Jehovah reigns through the age...
Through all generations, He is your God!

Psalm 147

Praise Jah. A Psalm of HagGai and ZechariAh.

¹ Praise Jehovah, for our God is good.
May praising Him be delightful!

² For the Lord will rebuild JeruSalem,
And gather back His scattered people.

³ He's the One who mends broken hearts,
And bandages those who are broken.

⁴ He has counted all of the stars,

And He calls each one by its name.

⁵ Great is our Lord and great is His strength...
There's no way to count all the things that He knows.

⁶ Jehovah watches over the meek,
While sinners are humbled and led to the ground.

⁷ Take the lead in praising Jehovah...
Strum to our God on your harps!

⁸ For, He made the clouds that cover the skies,
And He's the One who sends rain to the ground,
Which makes the grass grow on the mountains,
And shoots to sprout for men [to consume].

⁹ He's the One who gives food to their cattle,
And to the infants of crows...
To all that are calling upon Him.

¹⁰ He doesn't need the strength of a horse,
Nor has He any use for men's legs.

¹¹ Jehovah thinks well of all those who fear Him,
And those who trust in His mercy.

¹² So, praise Jehovah, JeruSalem!
O Zion, give praise to your God!

¹³ For He's strengthened the bars of your gates,
And allows you to give your sons blessings.

¹⁴ He's the One who brings peace to your borders,
And the fatness of wheat to your bellies.

¹⁵ He's the One who sends His signs to the earth,
And the things that He says happen quickly.

¹⁶ He sends us His snow as though it were wool,
And He strews the fog as though ashes.

¹⁷ Like breadcrumbs, He scatters His ice,
And who can withstand His chill?

¹⁸ But, by His word, it will melt...
He can blow His breath and turn it to water.

¹⁹ He's the One who gave signs to Jacob...
To IsraEl, He sent His rules and decisions.

²⁰ He's done this for no other nation...
To none others has He shown His judgments.
So, we should all [sing] His praises!

Psalm 148

Praise Jah. A Psalm of HagGai and ZechariAh.

¹ All you in the heavens; give praise to Jehovah...
Yes, praise Him in all the high places.

² All of His angels should praise Him...

Yes, praise Him, all of His armies!

³ Praise Him, O sun and moon;
Yes, praise Him, all stars and all lights!

⁴ Praise Him, O heavens of heavens,
And praise Him you waters that cover the skies!

⁵ Praise the Name of the Lord,
For He spoke and they came to be...
He gave the instructions, and they began!

⁶ He established them into the ages,
And into the age of the ages.
So, since He's the One who set them in place,
They will not pass away.

⁷ You beasts on the ground, praise Jehovah,
As should those who dwell in the deep!

⁸ For the fire, the hail, and the snow
And the icy wind blasts,
Have all come by His Word,

⁹ As did the mountains and hills,
And all the trees that bear fruit.

He's the One who made all the cedars...

¹⁰ All the wild beasts and slithering things,
And all the feathered, winged creatures.

¹¹ He made all the kings and their subjects...
The rulers and all of the judges...

¹² The young men and virgins, the old the young;

¹³ So, let them all praise the Name of the Lord!

His Name alone is the highest,
And He's higher than the heavens and earth.

¹⁴ So, all should be raising their horns,
And [singing] hymns to His holy ones...

Yes, to IsraEl's sons...

A people whom He holds so dear.

Psalm 149

Praise Jah.

¹ Sing a new song to Jehovah;
In the gathering of the holy, sing His praises.

² About their Maker, let IsraEl rejoice,
Along with all sons of Zion.

Let them shout in joy of their King,

³ And may they dance to His Name.
To the beat of tambourines, may they dance,
And to the strumming of lutes.

⁴ Jehovah finds pleasure in His people,
And the meek, He'll lift up and save.
⁵ Then the holy will boast of their glory,
And shout in joy from even their beds.
⁶ They will praise God with their throats,
With double-edged swords in their hands;
⁷ For they'll come to punish the nations,
And scold them for the bad things they've done.
⁸ They'll tie up their kings and put them in stocks,
And put iron hand cuffs on nobles.
⁹ They're coming to bring execution,
For the judgments about which He's written,
And to bring His holy ones glory.

Psalm 150

Praise Jah.

¹ In His Most Holy Place, praise our God...
Throughout all space, praise His power.
² In His dominion, shout praises of Him;
Praise the expanse of His greatness.
³ Praise Him by the blowing the trumpets;
Praise Him with lutes and with harps.
⁴ Praise Him with tambourines,
And with the company of dancers.
Praise Him with the strings of the lyre,
And with the sounds of the woodwinds.
⁵ Praise Him with the clashing of cymbals;
And along with the cymbals, add shouts.
⁶ May all who breathe, praise Jehovah!

Proverbs

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
Mostly written by Solomon about 1000-BCE, but it was later added to by others.*

NOTE: The Proverbs as poetry?

We had never noticed the Proverbs written in poetic form in other Bibles, but after translating the first five Chapters, we recognized a natural cadence indicating that it was originally written this way. So since few changes were required, we decided to continue with this original format, which has required some slight alterations in the wording due to language differences; but we are making every attempt to preserve the true meanings. Why is this important? Because, when we follow the rules of Hebrew poetry, it helps to determine the accuracy of the text we are using. For when there are problems fitting the text into poetic form and layout, we can see where changes have likely been made.

Recognize that the meanings may vary widely between different Septuagint versions, and between the Greek and the Hebrew text. In fact, the authenticity of Chapters 24-29 is in doubt because they don't appear at all in some Bibles at all. So we suggest that whenever the meanings of texts seem unclear or the following connected words don't seem to match, you check the reading of the verses in several other Bibles and then reject the wording of any that don't appear to make any sense... yes, the Bible should make sense.

Chapter 1

¹ **These are the proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, who reigned over Israel.**

² To get to be wise and to learn, you must understand intelligent words. ³ [You must see how] words can be shifted and turned, and used to unlock problems that puzzle. You need to understand true justice, and how to make judgments that are straight, ⁴ so that all your decisions are guileless and wise, while you perceive and reflect like a child.

⁵ If you'll listen, the wise will get wiser, and receive intelligent guidance. ⁶ You'll understand dark illustrations... the sayings of the wise and enigmas.

⁷ Wisdom starts with the fear of the Lord; and all who follow that rule, will be understanding and good, since reverence for God is where perception begins. But, those who fail to show Him respect, treat wisdom and learning with contempt.

⁸ Hear, O son, the laws of your father, and don't reject the rules of your mother. ⁹ Then a crown of favor you'll get for your head, and a gold chain for your neck.

¹⁰ O son; Don't let the godless lead you astray, and do not follow their ways. ¹¹ For they'll offer you comforting words and then say: 'Come with us and we will [shed] blood! For we'll treat the righteous unfairly, then we'll hide their bodies under the ground. ¹² Like the grave, we'll swallow them down still alive, and remove their memory from the land. ¹³ Then we'll take all their valuable things, and fill our houses with loot. ¹⁴ So, come with us and join in, and we'll each gain large sacks of money!'

¹⁵ Don't ever follow their ways... turn your feet from their paths! ¹⁶ For their feet run to do evil things, and they are quick to shed blood. ¹⁷ Haven't they wrongfully spread out their traps, as they would do to catch birds, ¹⁸ then murder to gain evil treasures? ¹⁹ Yes, these are the ways of the unrighteousness; and in their lack of respect, they bring destruction to their own lives.

²⁰ But the praises of wisdom are sung in the streets... she's celebrated in public places. ²¹ She shouts aloud from the tops of the walls, and at city gates, she courageously says: ²² 'As long as the honest have justice, they will never be shamed. But the insolent fools who crave [what's not theirs], and those with no fear [of God], are the ones who are lacking good sense. ²³ So, they will be disciplined.'

{Look!} I'm now willing to let go, of some of the sayings of my spirit... and to teach you, I'll now speak my words.

²⁴ I called to you, but you failed to obey; I explained it, but you wouldn't listen. ²⁵ You have ignored all my council, and to my scolding, you paid no attention. ²⁶ So I'll laugh when you are destroyed, and I'll shout in joy when you have been ruined. ²⁷ When troublesome times come upon you, and in a blast, you're quickly undone... whenever you're oppressed and assaulted, ²⁸ and you feel the need to cry out to me, I won't listen to you. For when evil men search, they don't find me, ²⁹ because they've detested what's wise, and failed to prefer the fear of the Lord.

³⁰ To my council, they chose not to listen, and when I scolded, they sneered. ³¹ So they'll have to eat their own fruitage, and be filled with their own disrespect. ³² Because they've done wrong to the simple, they will soon be destroyed... yes, after they're tried, they'll be slaughtered; ³³ while those who have chosen to listen to me, will camp in peace and in hope, without any fear of such evil.

Chapter 2

¹ O son; hear the things that I'm saying... take them and hide them within you. ² Your ears should obey these wise sayings... put them in your heart and understand them, then pass them along to your sons.

³ Now, if you call out for wisdom, and if you seek understanding... ⁴ if you search for perception as though it were treasure, ⁵ you will learn the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For, wisdom comes from Jehovah; in His presence, you'll find understanding and knowledge.

⁷ For those who are walking straight paths, He has treasured salvation, and He'll shield them wherever they travel. ⁸ He guards the ways of the righteous, and protects all those who show Him respect. ⁹ [And if you should choose to do all of this], you'll understand justice and judgments, and set yourself on a course to do good.

¹⁰ Now, should you decide to make wisdom your goal;
if your soul decides to search for perception;

¹¹ if you choose to follow good council;
if you'll be careful to do holy things;

¹² from evil ways, this will save you, and from [the wiles] of men who tell lies.

¹³ They're the ones who've abandoned straight paths, and in ways of darkness, they've chosen to walk. ¹⁴ For, badness is what makes them happy, and on what's perverse, they rejoice. ¹⁵ All of their pathways are crooked, and curved are all of their tracks. ¹⁶ Away from straight paths, they will lead you, and from righteous plans, they'll drive you away.

O son; Don't let bad council mislead you; ¹⁷ but, [follow] the things you've learned while still young, and never forget God's Sacred Agreement.

¹⁸ There are women who've put death near their homes, and the things that they do lead to the grave. ¹⁹ Those who approach them never come back, nor will they return to straight paths... for they've strayed from the road to long life.

²⁰ But, smooth are the roads that the righteous have found; for the meek will inherit the land, and the honest are those who'll remain. ²¹ Then only the upright will camp in the land, and those who'll be left are the holy. ²² Disrespectful ways will be gone from the land, and those who break laws will be banished.

Chapter 3

¹ O son; Don't forget the laws [that I've given to you], and keep the things that I've said in your heart; ² for, this will add length to your life. Yes, you will live [many] years, and peace will be added to you.

³ May charity and faith never fail you. If around your neck you will tie them, and write them on your heart's tablet, ⁴ you will find the favor [of God].

Before Jehovah and men, always plan to do what is good. ⁵ With your whole heart, put trust in your God, and on your own wisdom, never rely.

⁶ Keep sight of [wisdom] in all of your ways; for before you, she cuts a straight path.

⁷ In your own skills never trust; fear God and turn from all that is bad, ⁸ then healing will come to your body, and care will be shown to your bones.

⁹ You must honor Jehovah... work hard at doing what's good. As first fruits, offer Him your righteousness ways, ¹⁰ then with grain, your stores will be filled, and wine will gush from your vats.

¹¹ O son; Never take lightly instructions from God, or be upset when He disciplines you. ¹² For, Jehovah loves those He corrects, and He whips those whom He welcomes as sons.

¹³ The man who finds wisdom is blest, as is the mortal who comprehends. ¹⁴ She's a better trade than silver or gold... ¹⁵ she's worth more than all that's expensive. Why, nothing of value is worth more than she; ¹⁶ for long life and survival are in her right hand, and in her left, is glory and wealth. Out of her mouth, justice flows; on her tongue, there is mercy and law. ¹⁷ Goodness is found in her ways, and all of her paths lead to peace. ¹⁸ She's a tree of life to all who'll grab hold (those leaning on her as they do on the Lord)... they're the ones who'll get away safely.

¹⁹ In wisdom, God founded the earth, and with intelligence, He assembled the skies. ²⁰ By His perception, the valleys were formed, as from the clouds, flowed the dew.

²¹ Son, don't let my council slip by... pay attention and learn to gain insight, ²² so the man that you are will continue to live, and [God's] favor will be tied 'round your neck. For, to your flesh, this brings healing, and comfort to all of your bones; ²³ peace will follow in all of your ways, and your feet will never be tripped. ²⁴ When you sit down, it'll be without fear; and when you lie down, your sleep will bring rest. ²⁵ No terrible thing will you fear, nor will the godless push you aside. ²⁶ For Jehovah will watch all your ways, and make straight paths for your feet, so you won't stumble and fall.

²⁷ Don't overlook those who are poor, when you have what they need in your hands. ²⁸ Don't say, 'Come back at some other time... I will provide it tomorrow.' Give them what's good when you have it, so you'll never see the birth of what's bad.

²⁹ Don't plot to do bad to a friend, or to those with whom you must travel... those who've put trust in you. ³⁰ And don't quarrel without a good reason, so men don't plan to get even.

³¹ Don't follow the evil of those you despise, nor ever be jealous of the bad things they do.

³² And because God considers lawbreakers unclean, the righteous should not sit among them.

³³ The houses of those who have no respect, have all been cursed by the Lord, while the homes of the righteous are blest. ³⁴ Jehovah opposes the proud, and shows favor to those who are humble. ³⁵ While the wise will inherit all glory, the godless will just get dishonor.

Chapter 4

¹ O child; Hear the words of your father! Listen, so you can gain insight! ² For I'm going to give you a gift, and from my instructions, don't stray!

³ I was also the son of a father, and one who was loved by his mother; ⁴ so, by them both, I was taught. [They said], 'Keep our words in your heart! Keep our commandments... do not forget! ⁵ Seek understanding and wisdom... don't forget or ignore the words from our mouths, and never turn aside from these things. ⁶ Stick with this way... do not leave it. Love it with passion and you'll be kept [safe].'

⁷ Wisdom is basis for all; so with all you acquire, gain wisdom! And among all the things you possess, make sure to acquire understanding! ⁸ Build her a fort and she'll lift you... hold her in esteem and she'll watch over you... she'll place a crown on your head... ⁹ a luxurious crown that will shield you.

¹⁰ Hear, O son, and receive all my words; for they'll multiply the years of your life, and many ways of life you'll then understand.

¹¹ I'm teaching you the ways of the wise... I'm piling upon you, tracks that are straight, ¹² so the ways that you go will not hem you in, or ever be a block to your footsteps; thus, when you must run, you won't tire.

¹³ Grab my instructions and don't let them go! Hold them tight for yourself and your life!

¹⁴ Don't follow in the ways of the godless, or be jealous of the ways of lawbreakers. ¹⁵ Don't go to the place where they hang out... ¹⁶ alter your course and divert, because they won't sleep until they've done wrong. And since they can't sleep, they don't go to bed... ¹⁷ on the grain of irreverence, they feed, and on the wine of lawless ways, they get drunk.

¹⁸ But the ways of the righteous are light... they shine and give light until morning! ¹⁹ While the ways of the irreverent are dark, and they don't realize how often they fall.

²⁰ O son; Pay attention to the things that I'm saying, and listen to my words with your ears, ²¹ for then, your wells will not fail you. Store them inside your heart, ²² because those who find them will live, and to your flesh, they'll bring healing.

²³ With all the things that you guard, pay close attention to your heart, for that is the source of your life.

²⁴ From your mouth, remove all that's crooked, and keep unrighteous lips far away. ²⁵ Let your eyes always look straight ahead... let their lids not wink at the unjust. ²⁶ Make straight tracks for your feet, and straighten out all of your ways. ²⁷ Don't turn aside to the right or the left... just turn your feet from what's bad. For, God knows the ways that are right, and those who pervert them, He puts on His left. But, if you'll make your tracks straight, He'll lead you in ways that are peaceful.

Chapter 5

¹ O son, pay attention to my wisdom, and lend your ears to my words, so you can

understand clearly, ² then I'll tell you the things that my lips have perceived.

Pay no attention to vile women! ³ For the lips of a whore drip with honey, which fattens the throat for a while... ⁴ but you'll find them more bitter than bile, and sharper than a double-edged sword. ⁵ Foolish are the feet of those turning to her, because they lead to death and the grave... and her tracks aren't easily noticed. ⁶ Her ways do not lead to life, and the tracks that she makes are slippery and dark.

⁷ O son, please listen to me! Do not ignore what I'm saying! ⁸ From her, you should stay far away... don't go near to the door of her house, ⁹ so you don't pass your life onto others, and share your vigor with those without mercy. ¹⁰ Don't fill a stranger with your might... your strength shouldn't enter [a whore], ¹¹ for you'll be sorry when your flesh falls away. ¹² You'll say, 'O how I hated to be told... how discipline [bothered] my heart! ¹³ So I wouldn't accept their correction... my ears didn't hear the things I was taught. ¹⁴ Then little by little, I fell into bad, among the congregation [of God].'

¹⁵ O son; Drink water from your own jars, and from the flow of your own well! ¹⁶ Let the waters of your springs overflow... carry your own water to city squares! ¹⁷ Let it be yours all alone... do not share it with strangers! ¹⁸ Let your spring be just yours, and find your joy in the wife of your youth... ¹⁹ your friendly hind and your favored filly. Let her share conversation with you; hold her high and keep her nearby, for this friendship will mean a great deal.

²⁰ Don't spend time with strange women, and never hug one that's not yours. ²¹ For the eyes of God watch the ways of a man, and He keeps track of the things that he does. ²² Unlawful acts are a snare to all men, and you'll be bound in the chains of your sins. ²³ Those who don't learn this will come to their end, and then they will lose all they own... they'll perish in their own foolish ways.

Chapter 6

¹ O son; When you co-sign a loan for a friend, you've put yourself into your enemy's hands. ² By your own lips you've been snared, and captured by words that came from your mouth. ³ O son; Heed my words and you'll save yourself. If you choose to do such thing for your friend; into evil hands, you will fall. Don't leave yourself [in this position]. For you'll find that you've even angered your friend... he for whom you co-signed the loan! ⁴ So, don't let your eyes go to sleep, ⁵ or allow your eyelids to slumber, before you've escaped like a doe from a noose, and as wild fowl from a snare.

⁶ O lazy one; You should be like the ant... feel zeal, when you see what he does. Yes, you should become just like him... but, you should also be wiser! ⁷ For he doesn't own his own farm, and he has no one to urge him to work, nor is he under a master. ⁸ But during the summer, he gathers much food, as he prepares for a feast in the harvest.

⁹ O lazy one; How long are you going to lie there... when will you awaken from sleep? ¹⁰ You sit for a while, then sleep for a while, and after a while, you slumber, with your hands and arms on your chest, ¹¹ as poverty overtakes you like a mugger, and lack catches you like a sprinter.

¹² A man (a fool and lawbreaker), will travel in ways that are bad. ¹³ He beckons with his eyes, makes signs with his feet, and teaches with the motions of his fingers. ¹⁴ He plans to

do bad, since his heart is perverse, and he brings disturbance to his own town. ¹⁵ But because of this, his death will come soon... he'll be cut off and not be brought back, ¹⁶ since he rejoices at things that God hates. He's destroyed, because his life is unclean... ¹⁷ because his eyes are insulting... because his tongue is unrighteous... because his hands have shed righteous blood... ¹⁸ because his heart conspires to do bad, and his feet have run to do evil.

¹⁹ When [a man] tells a lie [in a courtroom], this unrighteous witness sets fires... bringing lawsuits between even brothers.

²⁰ O son; Guard the laws of your father, and don't cast aside the rules of your mother! ²¹ Fastened them tight to your soul! Tie them around your neck with a cord! ²² Bring them along wherever you walk, and make sure they are always nearby. When you sleep, let them keep watch, and have them remind you when you arise. ²³ For the Law's Commandments are a lamp and a light... they are a complete way of life! They're correction and instruction to guard you, ²⁴ from bad women who are already married, and from the distractions that come from strange tongues.

²⁵ O son; Don't let the desire for beauty entice you... don't get trapped by the things that you see, or beguiled [by the flutter] of her eyes. ²⁶ For, less than bread is the value of a whore, and a woman of men ensnares precious lives.

²⁷ Can a man light a fire on his own chest, without it burning his clothes? ²⁸ Can someone walk on live coals, without them consuming his feet? ²⁹ For, when you [have sex with] another man's wife, this is what happens to you, since none who touch her are found free from guilt.

³⁰ It's no surprise when someone's caught stealing; for, to fill a hungry soul, he will steal. ³¹ Then, when he's caught, seven times, he'll repay... he'll give all he owns to be saved. ³² But by the lack of good sense, the one who's committing adultery, upon himself brings destruction, ³³ he suffers both grief and dishonor, and his scorn will not be forgotten, throughout the rest of the age. ³⁴ For, because of the jealous rage of her husband, this man won't be spared in the day that he's judged. ³⁵ And because of the hate of her man, he'll not be able to bargain, nor will many gifts buy his freedom.

Chapter 7

¹ O son; Keep my words and commandments. Hide them inside yourself! ² Have deep respect for Jehovah, and He will make you grow stronger. In addition to Him, fear no other! Keep His commands and you'll live [a long] life. Like the pupil of your eye, guard His words... ³ wrap them around all your fingers, and inscribe them in the depths of your heart.

⁴ Take wisdom as your own sister, and intelligence as your best friend, ⁵ so they'll keep you away from strange women, as well as from all that is wicked, so good things will be said about you.

⁶ She leans from her window in her house on the square, ⁷ and whenever she views foolish offspring (a young man lacking good sense), ⁸ passing the corner near the path to her house; ⁹ she speaks from the darkness of the evening, when all are at rest in the dimness of night. ¹⁰ She meets with him and she looks like a whore, and the young man's heart

starts to flutter. ¹¹ She's so enticing and carnal... but, don't let your feet stop by her [door].

¹² At times, she strays outside of her house, and stands on the corner of the square. ¹³ She reaches out and she fondles, and with an impudent face she might say: ¹⁴ 'A sacrifice of peace, I must offer, and today I must render my vows... ¹⁵ and that's why I've met up with you. I noticed your face [as you passed], so I came over here just to find you.

¹⁶ 'Now, while I was sewing, I laid out my bed, which is spread with sheets [made in] Egypt. ¹⁷ With saffron, I sprinkled my bed, and spread cinnamon around in my house. ¹⁸ So, come and enjoy my friendship 'til dawn... come, and we'll wrap up in passion! ¹⁹ For my husband isn't at home... he's gone away on a journey. ²⁰ He left with a bundle of silver, and he'll not be back for several more days.'

²¹ She leads him astray and acts like a friend, while tying a noose 'round his neck. By the words from her lips, she reels him in; ²² and like an ox to be slaughtered he follows along... like a dog that's led with a chain, or a stag that's shot in the liver. ²³ So he hurries like fowl to a snare, not seeing that he's running for his life.

²⁴ Now, hear and pay close attention, to the sayings that come from my mouth! ²⁵ Don't turn aside to her ways in your heart, and don't be misled by her wiles. ²⁶ Many she's stabbed and then thrown away... unnumbered are those whom she's murdered. ²⁷ Her house is on the road to the grave, and it leads to the storerooms of death.

Chapter 8

¹ If you shout aloud about wisdom, intelligence also obeys you! ² She is higher than all of the others, and she stands in the midst of all roads. ³ She is the home of the mighty, and in their doorway, she sings: ⁴ 'O men, I bring comfort to you, and I sing aloud to your sons. ⁵ All you guileless should learn to be shrewd, and the unlearned should store it within their hearts.

⁶ 'You should listen to me, for I'm speaking of serious things, and from my lips comes what's true. ⁷ My throat will contemplate truth, since those with lying lips, I have hated. ⁸ Righteous are the sayings that come from my mouth... nothing in them is crooked or bad. ⁹ The discerning should stand face to face, with those who are teaching them knowledge.

¹⁰ 'Pursue instruction, not silver... put knowledge above proven gold! ¹¹ Yes, wisdom is better than precious gems... nothing is worth more than her.

¹² 'Wisdom camps with counsel and knowledge, and I've been asked to reflect. ¹³ The fear of Jehovah detests all injustice, as well as insolence and pride, and ways that lead to what's evil... for He hates the perversions of those doing bad.

¹⁴ 'Council and safety are mine! Intelligence and strength are mine also! ¹⁵ For by me, kings start their reigns, and the mighty write about justice. ¹⁶ By me, the great become sovereigns... through me, they rule the whole earth. ¹⁷ Those fond of me are always beloved, and those who seek me find favor. ¹⁸ By me, wealth and glory exist, as well as a land that is just.

¹⁹ 'The blest will gather my fruit, before even gold or precious gems... my reward is better than silver. ²⁰ I walk in the ways of the righteous, and return in the pathways of reason. ²¹ I provide for all those who love me, and I fill their treasuries with things that are good.

²² 'I'll proclaim what happens each day, and I'll speak of the things of the ages. By Jehovah, I was created, as the head over all of His ways, and to perform all His works. ²³ In the beginning, He made me... before this age came to be... before He decreed the creation of lands... ²⁴ before He made the abysses... or before the springs gushed with water. ²⁵ Yes, I was fathered by Him, before the mountains and hills... ²⁶ before He made regions and places to live... or the ends of man's home under heaven. ²⁷ As He was preparing the skies, it was me who presented them to Him.

Then, as He placed His throne on the winds, ²⁸ and moved clouds above with His strength... when He made all the springs under heaven, ²⁹ and set limits for the waters of the seas, so they couldn't cross over their borders... when the foundations of earth were made strong... I'm the one who stood there beside Him.

³⁰ 'By Him, all things worked together, and He found joy in them all. Each day that I stood there before Him, in this, I found much delight. ³¹ Then He was pleased when He finished man's home, and over sons of men, He was happy.'

³² Now, listen to me O my son: Blest are those who are guarding its ways! ³³ Learn from wisdom and you will be wise... do not cover it over! Blest is the man who listens to it, and the man who guards all its ways... ³⁴ he who's awake at its entrance each day, paying attention at its doors! ³⁵ For, those who seek it find life, and receive the favor of God! ³⁶ But, those who are sinning against it, show disrespect for their souls; and all who hate it are lovers of death.'

Chapter 9

¹ Wisdom has built a house for herself, and atop seven columns, she's propped it. ² She has offered all the needed sacrifices... she has mixed the wine in the jars... and she has readied her table. ³ Then she sends her servants to call [all the guests], and in a great proclamation, she says: ⁴ 'All you who are foolish; turn here to me!'

⁵ She says to those who are lacking good sense: 'Come eat my bread and drink my wine, which I've mixed up for you! ⁶ Stop being a fool... become smarter, so you will live a long time... get straight with wisdom and knowledge!'

⁷ Those who attempt to correct the ungodly, upon themselves, bring dishonor. For, when you scold the irreverent, you're just making a fool of yourself. ⁸ Never scold those who are evil, so they don't start to detest you! Reprove the wise and they'll love you... ⁹ give them help and they will be wiser. Explain things to someone who's righteous, and he will proceed to gain more.

¹⁰ Wisdom starts with the fear of the Lord, and counsel of the holy brings understanding. Knowledge of the Law is good to consider; ¹¹ for if you learn it, you'll live a long time... many more years will come to your life.

¹² O son; If you should choose to seek wisdom, you will make yourself wise. But, if you choose to seek evil, you'll bring what's bad on yourself.

¹³ A bold and foolish woman who doesn't have food, has no knowledge of shame. ¹⁴ She sits at the door of her house in a chair, to make herself seen in the square. ¹⁵ Then she calls out to those who pass on the street, and to those who are going straight on their ways: ¹⁶ 'You who are the most foolish; turn aside and come here to me!' She arouses the stupid by

saying, ¹⁷ 'You'll touch secret bread loaves in pleasure, and steal sweet water to drink!' ¹⁸ But, what they don't understand, is that she brings destruction to all earthly men, for they're perched on the edge of the grave.

Chapter 10

- ¹ A wise son gladdens a father, but foolish sons bring their mothers distress.
- ² Treasures are no help to the lawless, but they can rescue the righteous from death.
- ³ Jehovah won't let the righteous ones starve, but impious ways [lead to famine].
- ⁴ Poverty humbles a man, but hard-working hands will enrich him.
Correcting a son makes him wiser; so the foolish, he'll treat as his servants.
- ⁵ An intelligent son will be saved, and not [suffer from] sweltering heat; but wind will destroy all the harvest, of the son who is a lawbreaker.
- ⁶ Jehovah sends blessing to the heads of the righteous, and mourning to the mouths of the wicked.
- ⁷ The righteous are remembered and commended; while the names of the irreverent will perish.
- ⁸ A wise heart does as it's told, but back-talking lips will be stumbled.
- ⁹ For those who comply, things go easy, but resistance will not be forgotten.
- ¹⁰ The eye that is winking at bad things, creates distress for other men. But the one who openly scolds, is he who brings peace to others.
- ¹¹ Mouths of the righteous are like springs of life, but a cursing mouth leads to destruction.
- ¹² Hatred is what causes wars, but those who won't fight create friendships.
- ¹³ Those whose lips bring forth wisdom, are beating the heartless with a stick.
- ¹⁴ The wise hide their perceptions, but the mouth that speaks rashly approaches destruction.
- ¹⁵ The rich man's wealth is his fortress, but poverty is the ruin of the poor.
- ¹⁶ The deeds of the righteous bring life, but the fruit of the irreverent is sin.
- ¹⁷ Following instructions leads you to life; for without instructions, you'll stray.
- ¹⁸ Righteous lips cover hatred, but those who shout insults are fools.
- ¹⁹ A sin can't be covered with many words; so it's wise for your lips to say little.
- ²⁰ A righteous tongue is like refined silver, but the hearts of the irreverent have no value.
- ²¹ The lips of the righteous speak of high things, but fools die because they don't understand.
- ²² Jehovah blesses the heads of the righteous... He enriches and creates no distress in their hearts.
- ²³ The fool will laugh when he's doing what's bad, but wisdom makes a man act much

smarter.

²⁴ By destruction, the impious are carried away, while the righteous will receive the things they desire.

²⁵ A blast will come to destroy the impious, but the righteous will turn and escape in that age.

²⁶ As green grapes are bad for your teeth, and smoke is bad for your eyes, are lawless ways to those affected by them.

²⁷ The fear of Jehovah adds days to your life, while the lives of the irreverent are shortened by years.

²⁸ Happiness stays with the righteous, while the irreverent's hopes are destroyed.

²⁹ Jehovah's a fort of those who show mercy, but He's a ruin to those who work at what's bad.

³⁰ The righteous will live through the ages, but the impious won't live long lives in the land.

³¹ From the mouths of the righteous, drips wisdom, while unrighteous tongues lead to ruin.

³² From the lips of the righteous, drips loving care, but rejection comes from the mouths of the godless.

Chapter 11

¹ [Market] scales that are rigged, are disgusting things to Jehovah... fair weights what He approves.

² Those who shout insults show their dishonor, but the mouths of the humble speak wisely.

³ The righteous leave no regrets when they die; but their ridicule destroys the irreverent.

⁴ The perfection of the righteous will guide them, while the Godless will be plundered by failure... in the day of [God's] rage their possessions will fail, as the righteous are rescued from death.

⁵ Holiness keeps the righteous ones straight; but godless ways make the unrighteous fail.

⁶ A good man's right ways will save him; but the thoughtless ways of lawbreakers, will soon lead to their capture.

⁷ When a righteous man comes to his end, the things that he's hoped for are never destroyed. But the boastful ways of the godless, will soon bring about their destruction.

⁸ When the righteous are saved from a trap, the irreverent are then put back in it.

⁹ The mouths of the irreverent are snares to their friends; but the mouths of the righteous bring blessings.

¹⁰ By the good of righteous men, a city is born; and when the irreverent are destroyed, all [in the city] are joyful.

¹¹ By the praises of the upright a city is raised; but the mouths of the impious cut it back

down.

¹² A senseless man sneers at his comrades, but an intelligent man leads them to rest.

¹³ A double-tongued man reveals plans, but the trustworthy keep matters hidden.

¹⁴ Those with no guidance will fall just like leaves; for salvation is found [by seeking] advice.

¹⁵ The wicked act badly among righteous men, and the sounds of their safety, they hate.

¹⁶ Praiseworthy women bring their men glory, but those who hate what is righteous, are those who bring them dishonor.

The lazy will be lacking in wealth, but those who work hard will be rich.

¹⁷ A merciful man brings good to his soul; but the merciless bring themselves ruin.

¹⁸ The impious receive what is wrong as their wage; but the seed of the righteous is their reward.

¹⁹ A righteous son will gain life, while an irreverent son brings his own death.

²⁰ Those with twisted ways are disgusting to [God]... He only approves of those walking straight paths.

²¹ He who unrighteously lays his hands on another, won't go unpunished for his evil ways. But, he who sows justice is assured a reward.

²² As a gold ring in the snout of a pig, is a pretty woman with evil desires.

²³ The righteous want things that are good, while the hopes of the godless will perish.

²⁴ There are those who'll plant seeds and reap more; and there are those who will also reap less.

²⁵ A generous man will be blest... he who waters will also be watered.

²⁶ Those who hoard grain will leave it to gentiles, but the heads of those who share will be blest.

²⁷ Those who plan to do good seek its blessings, but those who plan to do bad, will be captured by those who do good.

²⁸ The one trusting in wealth won't succeed, but those who help the righteous will last.

²⁹ He who doesn't love those in his home, will just inherit the wind... to the intelligent, he'll be just a slave and a fool.

³⁰ From the tree of life, the righteous [gather] fruit, while the souls of the lawless are lost.

³¹ If the righteous will be saved [by the skin of their teeth]; what hope is there for the impious and sinners?

Chapter 12

¹ Those who love to be taught, also love understanding, while those hating correction are fools.

² Those who find the favor of [God], are those who'll receive what is best; while the

lawless just get condemnation.

³ Lawbreakers will not endure, but the roots of the righteous won't be removed.

⁴ A virtuous wife is a crown to her man, but one who is bad, eats him away, like a worm that is boring through wood.

⁵ True judgments are the ways of the righteous; but treacherous are the ways of the godless.

⁶ The impious lie in wait to shed blood, while righteous mouths offer protection.

⁷ When the irreverent lose, they just disappear, while the homes of the righteous remain.

⁸ The mouths of the discerning are praised by all men, but those dull of heart will be sneered at.

⁹ It's best for the dishonored to be servants, than to be proud and go without bread.

¹⁰ A righteous man pities the lives of his cattle, but the compassions of the impious have no mercy.

¹¹ He who works his ground will eat bread, while those who chase vain things go hungry.

There are those who drink wine as their pastime, but they leave their honor behind them.

¹² The desires of the impious are evil, but the roots of those who are showing respect, will become strongly entrenched.

¹³ By the sins of his lips, a sinner is snared, but the righteous will flee from such things.

¹⁴ From the fruits of his mouth, a man's soul receives good... he'll be repaid for the things his lips say.

¹⁵ Fools will go their own ways, but the wise will follow advice.

¹⁶ A fool bares his rage before all, but the wise will hide their dishonor.

¹⁷ The righteous put trust in telling the truth, but an unrighteous witness will lie.

¹⁸ There are some who speak as though stabbing with swords, while the tongues of the wise send healing.

¹⁹ Lips that are straight will tell what is true, while the lips the unrighteous speak quickly.

²⁰ Those who plan to do bad have treacherous hearts, but those who plan peace will find joy there.

²¹ The righteous aren't pleased by injustice, but the godless [find pleasure] in all that is bad.

²² Lying lips are disgusting to [God], but He accepts those whose lips can be trusted.

²³ The wise don't show all their knowledge, but the hearts of fools blurt their folly.

²⁴ [Honest] hands easily win, while the hands of the deceitful are plundered.

²⁵ Frightful words disturb hearts of men, but a message that's good brings them joy.

²⁶ A friend is one who suggests what is right, but sinners support evil and impious ways.

²⁷ A deceitful man won't get what he wants, but those pure [in heart] will be wealthy.

²⁸ The ways of the righteous lead them to life... from death, it turns them away.

Chapter 13

¹ A wise son does as his father directs, but those who won't listen will meet with destruction.

² From the fruit of righteous lips the good ones will eat, as the lives of the lawless reap destruction.

³ Those who guard the things that they say, are keeping watch on their lives, while the ones who let their lips go, are turning their lives into failure.

⁴ While idle men think of the things they desire, hardworking hands bring results.

⁵ The righteous hate words that aren't true, but the wicked will lie, and that brings them shame.

⁶ Righteousness guards the ways of the honest, while the irreverent are led into sin.

⁷ There are those who seek wealth and get nothing, and those who put themselves low that get rich.

⁸ A man's wealth may be used to ransom his life, but the poor have nothing to fear.

⁹ The righteous will always have light, while the light of the irreverent is extinguished.

¹⁰ Those practicing evil, [shout] insults, but the wise argue just with themselves.

¹¹ Things gained in haste by the lawless, will soon lose all their value; but things that are gathered by the righteous, will keep on growing in worth.

¹² He who plans in his heart to give aid, is better than those who just promise, and raise [false] hopes in [the poor].

A tree of life is the desire to do good. ¹³ But those who hate to do good things, will be hated for that very reason.

Those who deceive will get nothing good, but a servant's wise ways will be prospered.

¹⁴ The Law is a well of life to the wise, which turns them away from death's snares.

¹⁵ Understanding what's good brings [God's] favor... knowing and considering [His] Law is what's good. But the roads of all those who hate it, are paths that lead to destruction.

¹⁶ A wise man acts on the things he has learned, but the fool continues in his evil ways.

¹⁷ A hasty king will find trouble, but wise counselors can save him from this.

¹⁸ Poverty and dishonor are removed by instruction, and those following correction will be blest.

¹⁹ The things that the irreverent desire, bring delight to their lives... but ignorance is all they accomplish.

²⁰ Those who travel with the wise will be wise, but those traveling with fools will be counted [as fools].

- ²¹ Sinners will do evil things, but the righteous will do what is good.
- ²² A good man inherits the sons of his sons, and the wealth of the impious is reserved for the righteous.
- ²³ The righteous will spend many years in their wealth, while the wicked will suddenly perish.
- ²⁴ Those who don't spank are disliking their sons, but those who love will give careful correction.
- ²⁵ The righteous will eat and make their lives full, as the lives of the godless go lacking.

Chapter 14

- ¹ A woman who's wise will strengthen her home, while the foolish tear their's down with their hands.
- ² Those on straight paths fear Jehovah; but those with crooked ways [truly] hate Him.
- ³ From the mouth of a fool comes an insult, but the lips of the wise hold it back.
- ⁴ Where there are no cattle, the stables are clean; but the strength of the ox is very apparent, in barns that are prospering well.
- ⁵ A trustworthy witness won't lie, but a lying witness will commit other sins.
- ⁶ The bad who seek wisdom, won't find it; yet, it comes easily to the discerning.
- ⁷ All that the foolish say will be wrong, but wise lips are the weapons of those with good sense.
- ⁸ From their wisdom, the wise get direction, but fools are misled by their own thoughtless ways.
- ⁹ The homes of the lawless need cleaning, but the homes of the righteous are worthy.
- ¹⁰ A man whose heart is easily hurt, will always be in distress, while insults won't bother a heart filled with joy.
- ¹¹ The homes of the impious will meet with destruction, but the tents of the upright will last.
- ¹² There are ways that seem straight to a man, but they end in the depths of the grave.
- ¹³ Bold hearts are always filled with their ways, while a good man is filled with his thoughts.
- ¹⁴ -
- ¹⁵ A gullible man believes every word, while the wise will think it all through.
- ¹⁶ In fear, a wise man turns from what's bad, but a fool gives in and breaks laws.
- ¹⁷ A man prone to rage will act without thought, but the wise will endure many things.
- ¹⁸ A fool will share in doing what's bad, but the capable keep their good senses.
- ¹⁹ Evil men slip in among those who are good, and the irreverent watch the doors of the righteous.

- ²⁰ Friends dislike friends who are poor, while many are the friends of the rich.
- ²¹ Those who dishonor the needy have sinned; but those showing mercy to the poor will be blest.
- ²² Those who stray, contrive evil schemes, but the good contrive mercy and truth.
The bad have no mercy or faith, while the good are generous and trusting.
- ²³ For those who care, there's more than enough, but those who don't care and seek pleasure will lack.
- ²⁴ The crown of the wise is their wealth, but evil is the pastime of fools.
- ²⁵ A trustworthy witness snatches lives from the bad, but a man who's deceitful will lie.
- ²⁶ He who puts hope in the strength of Jehovah, will leave an inheritance for his children.
- ²⁷ The rules of Jehovah are life-giving springs, that lead men away from death-dealing snares.
- ²⁸ A prosperous nation brings glory to its king, but a nation in want brings him ruin.
- ²⁹ An intelligent man forgives freely, but a faint-hearted man [holds a grudge].
- ³⁰ A practical man is a healer of hearts, but a sensitive man is a moth to the bones.
- ³¹ The man who's extorting the needy, is provoking the One who made him; while the men that He holds in esteem, are those who show mercy to the poor.
- ³² For their evil, the irreverent will be shunned, while the righteous will be looked on as holy.
- ³³ In the heart of a good man, rests wisdom, which in the heart of a fool can't be found.
- ³⁴ Justice builds up a nation, but sinners make it decline.
- ³⁵ Wise counselors are [a joy to] the king; for they remove his dishonor in ingenious ways.

Chapter 15

- ¹ Even the smart are destroyed by their rage; for harsh words will make others angry, while an answer that's mild turns back rage.
- ² Tongues of the wise bring forth knowledge, but the mouths of fools just speak evil.
- ³ The eyes of Jehovah see all... He watches the good and the evil.
- ⁴ A tree of life, is the tongue that does healing... he who has it is filled with [God's] Breath.
- ⁵ A fool will sneer at his father's instructions, but the wise will heed their commandments.
Where there's justice, [a nation] is strong... their irreverent will be rooted from the land and destroyed.
- ⁶ There is strength in the homes of the righteous; but the fruits of the impious destroy them.
- ⁷ The lips of the wise are bound by good sense, but the hearts of fools can't be trusted.

⁸ Sacrifices of the irreverent are disgusting to God... He accepts the vows of those who walk straight.

⁹ The ways of the irreverent are disgusting to God, but He loves those who do what is righteous.

¹⁰ Those who heed the instructions of the guileless, will be the ones who follow straight paths; while those who dislike correction, will come to their end in disgrace.

¹¹ Of destruction and the grave, God has warned us; so, why isn't this in the hearts of all men?

¹² The ignorant hate those who correct them, and they don't wish to stay near the wise.

¹³ A heart that's happy makes a face shine, but a heart in distress makes it downcast.

¹⁴ An upright heart will seek understanding, but an ignorant heart knows just evil.

¹⁵ Evil eyes enjoy looking at bad, but the [eyes] of the good [search for] peace.

¹⁶ It's better to have little and the fear of Jehovah, than great treasures and no fear of God.

¹⁷ It's better to eat vegetables in a place where there's love, than to dine on calves where there's hatred.

¹⁸ An outraged man is ready to fight, but with an apology, he can be soothed.

The forgiving man prevents lawsuits, but the irreverent would rather create them.

¹⁹ The roads of the lazy lead into thorns, but the industrious travel highways that are busy.

²⁰ A father is happy with a son who is wise, but a foolish son sneers at his mother.

²¹ The paths of the unthinking don't make any sense; but the ways of the intelligent lead straight ahead.

²² From the hearts of advisors, there's much to be [learned]; ²³ but a man who is bad won't [take their advice], nor will he learn anything useful. For to him, what's good is mundane.

²⁴ The thoughts of the discerning lead to life, and they'll turn a man back from the grave.

²⁵ Jehovah tears down the homes of the proud, but He gives support to what widows own.

²⁶ The ways of the unrighteous are disgusting to God... He only respects the requests of the pure.

²⁷ He who takes bribes, brings ruin on himself, while those who hate them are saved.

Mercy and faith erase sins, and the fear of Jehovah turns us from bad.

²⁸ Faithful hearts think of what's righteous, while irreverent mouths speak of what's evil.

The ways of the righteous are accepted by God... by them, even enemies soon become friends.

²⁹ From the irreverent, God stays far away, but He hears the vows of the righteous.

It's better to be fair and gain little, than to gain much through injustice.

³⁰ An eye that sees good, brings joy to the heart, and good news puts fat on the bones.

³¹ Those who heed the corrections of life, will find themselves lodging among those who are wise.

³² Those rejecting instruction don't care for themselves, while those heeding correction, love life.

³³ The fear of Jehovah is instruction and wisdom... heeding Him is the sum of all glory, and the humble will be led to this glory.

Chapter 16

¹ May hearts of men consider what's righteous, so God can set their feet on straight paths.

² The deeds of the humble are apparent to God, but the irreverent will be destroyed in [God's] day.

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⁵ To God, proud hearts are unclean,
And He will not forgive
Those who lay their hands another unjustly.

⁶ Goodness starts with doing what's right... ⁷ it's better than offering sacrifices.

⁸ Those seeking Jehovah find knowledge and justice... those who righteously seek Him, find peace.

⁹ A man's heart is what sets his direction, but Jehovah sets the course for his feet.

¹⁰ Though a curse may be on the lips of a king, his mouth must not err in his judgments.

¹¹ A scale that's properly centered, is something that's righteous with God, for His ways require honest weights.

¹² The evil are disgusting to the king; for the sovereignty of his throne is based upon justice.

¹³ Righteous lips are what the king will accept; for your lord loves all that is straight.

¹⁴ The rage of a king is an angel of death; but a man who is wise can appease him.

¹⁵ The sons of a king are the light of his life, and those whom he loves are like gentle rains.

¹⁶ Sources of wisdom are better than gold, and understanding is worth more than silver.

¹⁷ The road [to long] life avoids what is bad, and righteous ways lead to old age.

Those willing to learn are counted as good, and those accepting correction are wiser.

He who guards his ways is protecting his soul, and he who loves life will watch what [he says].

¹⁸ Insolent ways will end in destruction, and evil thoughts lead to a downfall.

¹⁹ It's better to share a little with the meek, than to share great spoils with the haughty.

²⁰ The discerning are inventors of good things, and those yielding to God find His blessings.

- ²¹ Though the vile may shout to the wise and discerning, those with sweet words are the ones they will hear.
- ²² Understanding is life to all those who seek it, but the instruction of fools is just bad.
- ²³ From their own mouths, the hearts of the wise ones will learn, and from their own lips they'll gain knowledge.
- ²⁴ Sweet words are like combs filled with honey, for their sweetness brings healing to the soul.
- ²⁵ There are ways that seem straight to a man, but they end on the road to the grave.
- ²⁶ A man who works for himself, is a person who works very hard; for this leads him from destitution, while the rest wear failure over their mouths.
- ²⁷ The foolish search for things that are bad, and upon their own lips they heap fire.
- ²⁸ A man who is crooked spreads evil... with treachery, he lights many fires; and in this, he drives away friends.
- ²⁹ A lawbreaking man puts his friends to the test, and leads them in ways that are bad. ³⁰ His eyes are fixed as he plans to do wrong, and he confirms what's bad with his lips... such a man is a furnace of evil.
- ³¹ Old age is a crown of which you can boast, when it's found in ways that are righteous.
- ³² It's better to be forgiving than strong, and smartness is better than owning much land; but better than taking a city, is the ability to keep your temper in check.
- ³³ Unrighteous lips will bring what is bad, but all that is good comes from [God].

Chapter 17

- ¹ A scrap of food that's eaten in peace, is better than a house of feasting with fights.
- ² Over foolish masters, a smart slave will win, and he'll divide what he takes with his brothers.
- ³ As silver and gold are refined in a furnace; that's how Jehovah tries hearts.
- ⁴ A bad man obeys what lawbreakers say, and the unrighteous will heed lying lips.
- ⁵ He who makes fun of the poor, provokes the One by whom he was made.
Those who rejoice at the fall of another, won't [find their sins overlooked]; for mercy will come to those showing compassion.
- ⁶ The crown of the old is grandchildren, and fathers will boast of their sons.
The arrangements of [God] can be trusted, but the faithless won't know how [He] did it.
- ⁷ Trustworthy lips aren't enough for a fool, nor will lying lips please the righteous.
- ⁸ Instruction pays well to all of who would use it, for wherever it's used, they will prosper.
- ⁹ Those covering offenses are looking for love, but the unforgiving leave family and friends.
- ¹⁰ Intimidation breaks the hearts of the wise, but a fool who is whipped never learns.

- ¹¹ Evil men search for ways to dispute; but God sends merciless angels against them.
- ¹² An intelligent man will be anxious [for right], but about evil things, fools will argue.
- ¹³ He who repays good with bad, will never see evil removed from his house.
- ¹⁴ When a ruler backs up righteous words, it leads to few fights and divisions.
- ¹⁵ The righteous judge the unjust, and find them unclean and disgusting.
- ¹⁶ What value has wealth before fools? For in their hearts, there's no wisdom.
He who builds a tall house seeks its downfall, and the crooked will fall into evil.
- ¹⁷ Use your time to gain friends; for in bad days, they will be brothers... it's for such favor that they have been born!
- ¹⁸ A foolish man claps and shakes hands, then he [co-signs] a loan for a friend.
- ¹⁹ Those fond of sinning bring strife, and those with hard hearts won't ever bring good.
- ²⁰ A tongue that twists words leads to evil, and the heart of a fool brings himself grief.
- ²¹ An ignorant son won't make his dad proud, but the smart bring joy to their mothers.
- ²² A joyful heart brings good health, but the distress of a man dries out his bones.
- ²³ The unrighteous want gifts to be dropped in their laps, so as to pervert what is just.
- ²⁴ Faces of the discerning look wise, but the eyes of the foolish look distant.
- ²⁵ A foolish son angers his father, and brings grief to the [mother] that bore him.
- ²⁶ It is wrong to penalize the righteous, and unholy to plot against a just king.
- ²⁷ He who holds back harsh words shows his insight, and a man who concedes shows his wisdom.
- ²⁸ When an unthinking man asks a question, he's often thought of as wise; and when he refuses to argue, he will be thought of as smarter.

Chapter 18

- ¹ A man with excuses is rejected by friends, and he'll always be spoken of poorly.
- ² Those lacking good sense have no use for wisdom; for by what's foolish, they wish to be led.
- ³ When they reach the depths of their evils, the irreverent simply don't notice, that they are dishonored and scorned.
- ⁴ A word that touches the heart, is like very deep water... like a river and life-giving spring.
- ⁵ It's not good to favor the wicked, and unholy to deny justice to the righteous.
- ⁶ A fool's lips will lead him to evil, and the boldness of his mouth beckons his death.
- ⁷ The mouth of a fool will destroy him, for his lips are snares to his soul.
- ⁸ The lazy are easily frightened, and timid souls will go hungry.

- ⁹ A man who won't work for himself, is a brother to the one who brings himself ruin.
- ¹⁰ In the Name of the Lord there is power... it's where the righteous can run for their strength.
- ¹¹ The wealth of the rich is a fortified town, and its glory casts a long shadow.
- ¹² Before his ruin, a man's heart is proud, and just before glory, it's humbled.
- ¹³ When a man replies before hearing, it's foolish and brings him much scorn.
- ¹⁴ A man can endure a [long] illness, but who can endure the spirit of worry?
- ¹⁵ The hearts of the smart gain perception, and the ears of the wise search for insight.
- ¹⁶ When a man brings a gift, he makes friends, and he will sit beside rulers.
- ¹⁷ Before speaking, the righteous examine themselves; for they know that they'll be reproved, by those who do not agree.
- ¹⁸ Choosing by lottery ends a dispute, and it defines the boundaries of rulers.
- ¹⁹ A brother who is helped by his brothers, is like a high city with fortified walls, and like a castle that's well built and strong.
- ²⁰ From the fruits of his mouth, a man's belly is filled... from the fruits of his lips, he'll get all that he needs.
- ²¹ In the handle of the tongue is both life and death, and those who fail to restrain it, will [end up] eating its fruitage.
- ²² He who's found a good wife, has done himself a great favor... joy from Jehovah, he has received.
- He who sends away a good woman, is one who rejects things of value; but he who keeps an adulteress, is a foolish and irreverent man.
- ²³ Those in need make many requests, but the rich will respond very harshly.
- ²⁴ A man should seek many friendships, for some friends will stick closer than brothers.

Chapter 19

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- ³ Doing what's foolish lays waste to men's ways, but in their hearts, they'll still blame it on God.
- ⁴ Wealth will bring many friends, but friends will abandon the poor.
- ⁵ A lying witness will not go unpunished, and the false accuser will not escape.
- ⁶ Many seek the favor of the king, and all who bring gifts are his friends.
- ⁷ Those who hate a brother who's poor, will never be good at making friends.
- Insight is good for all those who seek it, and an intelligent man will soon find it.
- The evil are good at doing what's bad, and those who aggravate won't be saved.
- ⁸ Those [willing to learn] love themselves; for those seeking intelligence will find what is

good.

⁹ A lying witness will not go unpunished, and those bringing evil will perish by it.

¹⁰ Luxury is no advantage to the fool; and it's wrong for a servant who's been given power, to use it in ways that are haughty.

¹¹ A merciful man is forgiving, and he triumphs over those who have erred.

¹² Intimidation from a king is like a lion's [roar], but bringing him joy is like dew on the grass.

¹³ Foolish sons bring shame to their fathers.

Impure are all of the vows, that are paid with the wage of a whore.

¹⁴ Though fathers may leave us homes and possessions, a sensible wife comes from [God].

¹⁵ Worry holds back a cowardly man, and the lives of the idle go hungry.

¹⁶ Those keeping the Commandments are protecting their lives; but those hating its ways will soon perish.

¹⁷ God lends to those who show mercy to the poor, and He'll repay them according to their gifts.

¹⁸ Correction builds confidence in sons... but you can't make them better with insults.

¹⁹ An evil-minded man will be punished; and if he [kills], he must pay with his life.

²⁰ Listen, O son, to the words of your father, so in your last days you'll be wise.

²¹ There are many choices in the heart of a man; but counsel from God lasts through ages.

²² Charity is what is desired of a man; for it's better to be righteous and poor, than to be rich and a liar.

²³ The fear of Jehovah brings life to a man, but those who have no such fear, will lodge where no knowledge is found.

²⁴ In folded arms, the hands of the unrighteous are hidden, so they can't bring [what's good] to their mouths.

²⁵ When a foolish man is whipped for his mischief, it will make all simple men shrewder; but an intelligent man will understand more, and he will make needed corrections.

²⁶ He who dishonors his father, and who pushes his mother away, will be reviled and disgraced.

²⁷ A son who disobeys his father's instructions, will focus on the evil that he hears.

²⁸ A loan [co-signer] is like a foolish child, for he is insulting the Law, and the mouths of the irreverent will swallow him down.

²⁹ Whips are prepared for all those, who fail to hold back their words, and for the backs of the foolish.

Chapter 20

¹ Wine and strong drink can make you drunk, and fools will get involved in such things.

- ² The intimidation of a king is as a lion's rage, and all of those who provoke him, are sinning against their own lives.
- ³ It's glory for a man to avoid shouting insults, but a fool stays involved in such matters.
- ⁴ If you scold the lazy, he'll not be shamed... he'll even borrow grain in the harvest.
- ⁵ Instruction is deep water within a man's heart, from which the intelligent can draw.
- ⁶ A respected man has much value, and a merciful man isn't easily found... but it's harder to find one who's faithful.
- ⁷ Those who offer pure justice, will leave many blessings for their children.
- ⁸ When a just king sits on a throne, he won't abide evil in his presence.
- ⁹ Who can boast that he has a pure heart, and openly say that he's clean from all sins?
- ¹⁰ An untrue weight, whether it's large or it's small, is something unclean to Jehovah. And both the weights and their makers, ¹¹ will be bound hand and foot for their actions.
- A young man who's [a friend] to the holy, will surely find his ways straight.
- ¹² The ears can hear and the eyes see; for they're both the works of Jehovah.
- ¹³ Do not love too much sleep, so that you won't end up as poor; rather, open your eyes and be filled with bread!
- ¹⁴ The barterer says, 'It's bad, it's bad!' But after he leaves, he will boast.
- ¹⁵ There [are treasures] of gold and precious gems, but understanding lips have more value.
- ¹⁶ If you should offer all of your clothes, as security for the loan of a stranger; may that stranger thereafter reclaim them.
- ¹⁷ The bread of deceit may seem good to a man, but he'll find his mouth filled with gravel.
- ¹⁸ Make plans with discussion, counsel, and guidance, before you go to fight battles.
- ¹⁹ Double-tongued is the man who reveals someone's plan, when he is speaking to others; for his lips shouldn't speak of things not his own.
- ²⁰ He who speaks badly to a father or mother, will find that his torch is extinguished, and the pupils of his eyes will see darkness.
- ²¹ Whenever a thing is easily gained, in the end, it will have little value.
- ²² Don't ever say you'll get even; just wait on Jehovah to help you.
- ²³ Two different weights are disgusting to [God], and a balance that's off is evil to Him.
- ²⁴ A man's steps must be straightened by [God]; for, how can mortals know the right ways to go?
- ²⁵ It's a snare to declare something holy too fast; for after you vow, you might change your mind.
- ²⁶ A wise king rejects those with little respect, and he'll have them put on the wheel.
- ²⁷ The spirit of men is the light of the Lord, which He uses to see what's inside them.

- ²⁸ Mercy and truth safeguard a king; for, to his throne, they'll bring justice.
- ²⁹ The glory of young men is their strength, and the glory of old men is gray hair.
- ³⁰ The bad will know bruises and broken [bones], and illness will come to their bellies.

Chapter 21

- ¹ The heart of a king is a wave [in the sea], when it's in the hand of our God. For, wherever He wishes He nods, and that's the way he will go.
- ² All men think themselves righteous, but Jehovah's the One who weighs hearts.
- ³ Telling the truth and doing what's right, is more pleasing to God than a blood sacrifice.
- ⁴ A high-minded man is insolent and bold, and the lamp of the impious is their sins.
- ⁵ The thoughts of hard-workers are about [gaining] more; but those who are hasty will end up with less.
- ⁶ He who seeks treasures by lying, is a man who's pursuing in vain; for, in death's snare, he'll be caught.
- ⁷ The ruin of the irreverent is welcomed as a guest; for, they prefer not to do righteous things.
- ⁸ To the crooked, God sends crooked ways; for His works are all straight and pure.
- ⁹ It's better to live on the corner of a roof, than in a house whitewashed with injustice, or to live in one that is dirty.
- ¹⁰ The disrespectful person prefers what is bad, so he'll never see mercy from others.
- ¹¹ When you discipline a man for his lack of restraint, you make the guileless more clever; for, by his insight, the wise man will learn.
- ¹² Impious hearts are examined by the righteous, who treat their evil ways as refuse.
- ¹³ Those who close their ears to the weak, will call out and no one will listen.
- ¹⁴ A gift that is given in private, will soothe [a person who's angry]; but where there's no gift, the rage may remain.
- ¹⁵ The pure are joyful when the righteous get justice, but this terrifies evil doers.
- ¹⁶ A person who travels in righteous ways, will rest among gatherings of great ones.
- ¹⁷ A man who loves pleasure will end up with little; and those fond of wine and [olive] oil, will never [find themselves] wealthy.
- ¹⁸ To the righteous, the wicked are trash, and the same is true of those who break laws.
- ¹⁹ It's better to live in the desert, than with a wife who wishes to argue and fight, or one who is prone to be angry.
- ²⁰ Treasure rests in the mouths of the wise, but the foolish just swallow it down.
- ²¹ Those who seek charity and justice, will also find glory and life.
- ²² The wise build forts all around them, but the forts of the wicked will all be destroyed.

- ²³ Those who keep watch on their mouths and their tongues, are saving their souls from the problems they bring.
- ²⁴ A bold, self-willed, and presumptuous person, is one who's considered a plague; for, all resent those who live without law.
- ²⁵ Lazy desires bring death a man, for his hands will choose to do nothing.
- ²⁶ A disrespectful man lusts for evil, while the righteous show mercy and pity.
- ²⁷ When the irreverent bring sacrifices, they are viewed as disgusting by [God]; for, whatever they bring is not by the Law.
- ²⁸ Since a witness who lies deserves death; a [wise man] will watch what he says.
- ²⁹ Irreverent men like to stand in the front, but the upright know what they're up to.
- ³⁰ In the godless, there is no wisdom or courage, and the advice that they offer is bad.
- ³¹ Though a horse is prepared for the day of the war, true help really comes from Jehovah.

Chapter 22

- ¹ A good name is preferred over great wealth, and good favor is better than silver and gold.
- ² The rich and the poor should meet with each other; for, both were made by Jehovah.
- ³ When a clever man sees the bad being punished, he makes corrections in himself... but this is lost on fools passing by.
- ⁴ The fear of Jehovah is the father of wisdom... wealth, glory, and life are its rewards.
- ⁵ Thistles and snares line ways of the crooked, but those guarding their souls will avoid them.
- ⁶ Raise a child [in good] ways, and when he grows old, he won't leave them.
- ⁷ The rich have control of the poor... they're the masters of all those who borrow.
Those planting evil will harvest what's bad... they'll reap calamity from the bad things they've sown.
- ⁸ God loves a person who cheerfully gives, and overlooks the foolish things that he's done.
- ⁹ Those who show mercy to the poor, will eat the same bread that they give.
The giver of gifts buys victory and honor, while those who withhold them may lose their lives.
- ¹⁰ If you bar mischief-makers from your group, their unpleasantness also goes with them.
For they bring dishonor when they sit in your midst.
- ¹¹ Jehovah loves hearts that are holy... those with pure ways, He accepts.
- ¹² The eyes of Jehovah keep guard on good sense, and He treats lawbreakers as [refuse].
- ¹³ The lazy make many excuses... they say, 'There's a lion out in the streets, so I could be killed in the square.'

- ¹⁴ The mouths of the lawless are cesspools, into which those whom God hates will fall.
- ¹⁵ Foolish ways delight the hearts of the young; but instruction and spankings will drive them away.
- ¹⁶ He who swindles the needy, upon himself, brings much evil, and he'll give it away to the rich.
- ¹⁷ Turn your ears to these words of wisdom... listen to the things that I'm saying, and prepare your heart so you'll understand. ¹⁸ For, what I am saying is good. And if you'll take this into your heart, it will bring joy to your lips.
- ¹⁹ Put your hope in Jehovah, and He will show you His ways. ²⁰ Write them down three times for yourself, for your own instruction and knowledge.
- ²¹ I'm teaching you words that are true, so listen closely and learn. Then, you can reply with words that are true, when people are asking you questions.
- ²² Don't push away the needy and poor, and don't dishonor the weak at your gates. ²³ Because it's Jehovah who argues their cause, you'll save your life from reprisal.
- ²⁴ Don't be a friend to a man prone to rage, and don't lodge with a man prone to anger, ²⁵ so you don't learn from their ways, and bring a noose to your life.
- ²⁶ Don't shame your face by ensuring a loan; for, if [your friend] can't repay it, they'll take the bed from under your back.
- ²⁸ Don't move the markers of the ages, which were set in place by your fathers.
- ²⁹ An observant man who is sharp in his ways, will also stand beside kings... he won't stand beside the dull witted.

Chapter 23

- ¹ If you're invited to dine with a ruler, pay attention to all that's around you. ² Especially pay attention to your hands... have them prepared at such [times]. And though you may be very hungry, ³ don't be too fond of his food; for that will not save your life.
- ⁴ And should you find yourself in great need, don't reach out to those who are rich... use insight and stay at a distance. ⁵ For, though you keep watch, they will not appear, since they have the wings of an eagle, and they can [escape] to their homes.
- ⁶ Don't dine with a man prone to envy, nor desire his food... ⁷ eat and drink as though you're swallowing a hair. And don't bring him into your house for a meal; ⁸ for he will just vomit it out, and lay waste to the good things that you've prepared.
- ⁹ Don't speak into the ears of a fool, so he doesn't sneer at your wisdom.
- ¹⁰ Don't move the markers of the ages, and never take the possessions of orphans, since their ransom is paid by the Lord... ¹¹ He's mighty and He'll argue their case.
- ¹² Open your hearts to great learning, and prepare your ears for sensible words!
- ¹³ Don't avoid correcting the young... for if you spank him, no way will he die. ¹⁴ And if you give him a spanking; from death, you may rescue his soul.
- ¹⁵ O son; If you teach your heart to be wise, you will bring much joy to my heart. ¹⁶ If [the

things that you say] should prove to be straight, we will spend time sharing words from our lips.

¹⁷ Don't let your heart be jealous of sinners... rather, fear Jehovah throughout the day! ¹⁸ For, if choose to take this advice, you will have many descendants, and you'll get everything that you've hoped for.

¹⁹ Hear me O son and be wise; straighten the thoughts in your heart! ²⁰ Don't be a person who drinks too much wine, or who reclines with the meat in the markets! ²¹ For, whoremongers and drunks will be poor... the nightgowns they wear will be ragged and torn.

²² Hear me O son, for I am your father... and don't disrespect your old mother. ²³ With all you gain, [search for] what's true... don't reject wisdom, instruction, and knowledge!

²⁴ A righteous father is one who provides, and a son who is wise brings joy to his soul. ²⁵ So, please bring joy to your father and mother... may the one who bore you, rejoice!

²⁶ Lend me your heart and your eyes. O son, pay attention to my words!

²⁷ The house of a [whore] is a keg with a hole... it's a well that is narrow and strange, ²⁸ and all [who go there] will perish! For, those who break laws are destroyed.

²⁹ For whom are there problems and woes? For whom are there many disputes? For whom is there intrigue and rancor? Who is destroyed for no reason? Who's the one with dark eyes? ³⁰ Isn't it those who linger with wine, and those who go looking for parties? Don't be a man who gets drunk on wine... don't hang out with [the unrighteous], and don't go around [with the bad]! ³¹ For, if you search for [the contents of] cups, you'll end up as bare as a pestle... ³² stretched out like one who's been struck by a snake, or one poisoned by the bite of horned vipers.

³³ When your eyes behold a strange woman, and your mouth starts to speak perverse things; ³⁴ then, when you lie down with her it will be, as though you're in the heart of the sea... as a sailor who's covered by waves ³⁵ (and you'll say): 'They beat me, but I felt no pain; they mocked me, but I didn't know it. How long will it be 'til it's dawn, so I can go back and do it again?'

Chapter 24

¹ O son; Never be jealous of evil men, nor desire to go along with them. ² For their hearts just think about lies, and misery is what their lips bring.

³ Wisdom has built a house for himself, and it was erected with skill. ⁴ Its storerooms are filled with good sense... things of value, goodness, and wealth.

⁵ Gaining wisdom is better than physical strength, and being smart is better than owning much land.

⁶ It's good to seek guidance in war, for from the hearts of advisors, comes aid.

⁷ Wisdom and insight are good, and they're found within the gates of the wise.

⁸ The wise won't turn from the Laws of Jehovah, and they consider His things in their meetings. ⁹ But, those who won't learn meet with death, ⁹ since the fool will die for his sins.

¹⁰ With dirty things, don't get involved; for when the day of trouble arrives, you'll see how things have worked out.

¹¹ Rescue those being led to their deaths, and ransom those about to be slain! ¹² Don't say, 'I never knew them;' for the Lord knows the hearts of all men. Since it's He who put breath in them all, He's aware of all that we do, and He pays us back for the things that we've done.

¹³ O son; Eating honey from the comb is delightful, for it brings sweetness into your throat! ¹⁴ And that's how wisdom should be in your life; for if you find it, your death will be good, and your hope will never be lost.

¹⁵ Into the pastures of those who are righteous, you should never lead the irreverent, nor be deceived [when they offer a meal]. ¹⁶ For, though the righteous may fall seven times, they will stand up again, and the irreverent will be plagued for their badness.

¹⁷ Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and after his fall, he can't rise. ¹⁸ For Jehovah will see this and He'll not be pleased, then He'll send His rage upon you.

¹⁹ Do not rejoice over those who do bad, nor ever be jealous of sinners! ²⁰ For the lives of the wicked will come to an end, and the torch of the irreverent extinguished.

²¹ Fear God, O son, as well as the king... never resist their persuasion! ²² For they both can bring sudden death, upon those who show no respect. Yes, who can know how they'll punish?

²³ I'm saying this to you and the wise: Feeling awe for a person you're judging, is a poor way to start in a trial. ²⁴ For, he who declares the irreverent just, will be cursed among all his people, and detested among every nation. ²⁵ But, he who reproves will look better, and upon such a one will come praises... ²⁶ lips will kiss his righteous decisions.

²⁷ Prepare to stop what you're doing, and let's go out to work in your fields... then follow me and we'll work on your house!

²⁸ Don't be a witness who lies, and don't open your lips very wide. ²⁹ Don't say, 'I'll do what he did to me... I'll get even with the one who has wronged me!'

³⁰ A foolish man is much like a farm, and one lacking good sense, like a vineyard. ³¹ For, if you just leave them alone, they will become overgrown... their stone fences will fail and soon be torn down.

³² I once decided to change... I planned to just [sit back] and learn. ³³ Then I started to doze and fell fast asleep, with my hands folded over my chest. ³⁴ Now, if you allow this to happen to you, poorness will soon overtake you, and lack will run past like a sprinter.

Chapter 25

¹ **These are the [proverbs] of Solomon that were recorded by friends of Hezekiah, the king of Judea.**

² God's glory covers a matter, but kings view all things as important.

³ As the heavens are high over the earth; so the heart of a king.

⁴ Beating on unrefined silver, is the way to make it more [pure].

- ⁵ Slay the impious surrounding the king, and you'll make his throne one of justice.
- ⁶ Don't boast when you're standing in front of the king, and don't do it in the gatherings of the mighty.
- ⁷ It's better if [a king] says, 'Move closer,' than to be humbled by him in the presence of the mighty.
- Tell the king only those things, which you have seen with your eyes.
- ⁸ Don't be too quick to start fights, or in the end, you'll wish that you hadn't.
- Whenever a friend chooses to scold you, ⁹ don't pull away or get angry. ¹⁰ For, if his scolding has caused you to hate him, it's the same as causing his death. Since favor and friendships bring freedom, pay close attention to the things that you do, and don't give him any reasons to scold you... act in ways that will not cause trouble!
- ¹¹ As a gold apple in a pendant of rubies, is the value of words that are wise. ¹² And as a gold earring with a setting of [gems], are wise words to ears that will listen.
- ¹³ A messenger who can be trusted, is like falling snow in the heat of the harvest; for he benefits the lives of all whom he tells.
- ¹⁴ As winds, clouds, and rain are apparent; so is the man who chooses to boast, of gifts that he didn't give.
- ¹⁵ Patience before a king brings success, and a mild reply will break bones.
- ¹⁶ When you find honey, just eat what's enough, lest you should get filled and vomit it out.
- ¹⁷ Be sparing in the way that you [visit] friends, so they don't get tired and start to detest you.
- ¹⁸ Like clubs, and swords, and arrow tips, is the person who slanders a friend.
- ¹⁹ For their evil, the lawless will die, in the bad day that's [coming].
- ²⁰ As vinegar on a [cut] causes [pain], is a heart in distress is to its body. Like a moth in [wool] clothes and a worm inside wood, is how worry [will eat] a man's heart.
- ²¹ If your enemy is hungry, you should feed him; and if he's thirsty, you should give him a drink! ²² By this, you'll pile burning coals on his head, and Jehovah will repay you for the good things you did.
- ²³ As a wind from the north will bring clouds... that's how impudent tongues aggravate.
- ²⁴ It's better to live on the corner of a roof, than with a woman who likes to complain.
- ²⁵ As cold water is enjoyed by the thirsty; so is good news that comes from afar.
- ²⁶ As unbecoming as plugging a spring, which results in wasting the water, is the fall of the righteous before the impious.
- ²⁷ As eating too much honey isn't good; kind words can give too much praise.
- ²⁸ As a city without walls lacks protection; so is the person who won't take advice.

Chapter 26

- ¹ As snow in the summer and rain in the harvest; it's wrong for a fool to be honored.
- ² As sparrows and other winged creatures, may spread [their wings, but not] fly; an oath said in vain won't be fulfilled.
- ³ As a whip to a horse or a spur to a mule; a nation that's lawless must be beaten.
- ⁴ Don't answer a fool in his same foolish way, so you aren't thought to be like him. ⁵ Reply to show how he's foolish, so he won't think himself wise.
- ⁶ He who sends a foolish report, heaps scorn upon all his ways.
- ⁷ Remove from fools their reasons [to speak], and from their mouths take their proverbs. ⁸ For as one who ties a stone to a sling, is he who gives glory to fools.
- ⁹ As thorns will grow in the hands of a drunk; slavery grows in the hands of a fool.
- ¹⁰ As much damage may be caused by storms; the flesh of fools will meet with destruction, over things in which they find pleasure.
- ¹¹ As a dog returns to its vomit; a fool will return to the evil he's done, and commit same sins again.
- ¹² I've seen men who think themselves wise, but they are no more than fools.
- ¹³ When you send out the lazy, they'll say: 'There are lions out in the roads, and murderers [are hiding] out in the square.'
- ¹⁴ The lazy one rolls in his bed, like a door that's swinging on hinges.
- ¹⁵ When the lazy one hides his hands in [his robe], he's unable to bring them up to his mouth.
- ¹⁶ The lazy one thinks himself wiser, when something he says appears to be true.
- ¹⁷ As one who grabs hold of the tail of a dog, is he who argues a quarrel not his.
- ¹⁸ As doctors also need healing; those [giving instructions] will stumble.
- ¹⁹ When a man is caught seeking friends [as his prey], he'll claim that he was pretending.
- ²⁰ When there's plenty of wood, a fire will grow; but, when there's no reason to disagree, there's also no reason to fight.
- ²¹ As a grate filled with coals or wood on a fire; a man who shouts insults is seeking a fight.
- ²² The words of those who are bad may sound soft, but they beat the insides of the bowels.
- ²³ Silver that comes through treachery, is the same as a fine pot that's cracked.
Comforting [words] will bring rest, to a heart in distress.
- ²⁴ An enemy who cries will always agree, as he makes evil plans in his heart.
- ²⁵ When an enemy calls to you in a loud voice, don't pay him any attention; for he has seven kinds of evil in his heart.

²⁶ Treacherous are those who hide hatred, but their sins can be shown up in court.

²⁷ He who's digging a pit for his neighbor, will be the one who falls in it; and he who's rolling a boulder, will roll it back on himself.

²⁸ A lying tongue hates the truth, and an open mouth can cause problems.

Chapter 27

¹ Don't boast of the things that you'll do tomorrow; for, [no one] knows what tomorrow will bring.

² Let your praise come from friend (not your own mouth)... from the words of strangers (not your own lips).

³ Rocks and sand are heavy to bear, but the rage of a fool is greater than both.

⁴ Rage has no mercy and anger is sharp; but, before the zealous, no one can stand.

⁵ It is better to offer correction, than to use flattering words.

⁶ The wounds of a friend can be trusted, more than an enemy's kisses.

⁷ Those who are full will laugh at honeycombs, and to the starving, what's bitter tastes sweet.

⁸ As a bird that flies from its nest, is a man who strays from his home.

⁹ Perfume, incense, and wine, will all make the heart happy; but, things that go wrong will shatter a soul.

¹⁰ Don't leave a friend or a friend of your father, and in hard times don't go to the house of your brother. For a friend who is near is much better, than a brother who lives far away.

¹¹ Become wise, my son, and make my heart glad... do not shout hateful words!

¹² When the clever see evil, they run, but a fool passing by gets involved.

¹³ Take the clothes from the one who shouts insults, and lays waste to the goods of a stranger.

¹⁴ Shouting praises of a friend too early, is the same as when you shout curses.

¹⁵ As a house leaking rain in the winter; a nagging wife drives a man from his home.

¹⁶ Since wind from the north blows very hard, it is fittingly called the north wind.

¹⁷ As iron is sharpened by iron; a man can sharpen the face of a friend.

¹⁸ The man who is planting a fig tree, is the one who will gather its fruit; and the man who guards [the life of] his master, is the one who'll be held in esteem.

¹⁹ As faces aren't like other faces; men's hearts are also quite different.

²⁰ As the grave and destruction can never be filled; men's eyes can't be satisfied. But the [desires] of the eyes are disgusting to [God], as are the stupid who don't mind their tongues.

²¹ As silver and gold are refined in a fire; a man is refined by corrections.

²² You can dishonor a fool with a whip before crowds, but you can't drive his foolishness from him.

²³ Know the condition of the lives of your flock, and keep your herd in your heart.

²⁴ A man's might and strength won't last through the age... through generations, he cannot retain them.

²⁵ If you tend the greens that grows in your field, you'll take their cuttings for food. And if you'll gather the hay from the hills, ²⁶ you'll also have wool for your clothes. Therefore, hold your fields in high esteem, so you can own many lambs.

²⁷ O son; These many proverbs that I've spoken, will all add years to your life... and they'll also bring life to your servants.

Chapter 28

¹ The godless will flee when they're not being chased; but, as secure as lions, are the righteous.

² From the sins of the irreverent come lawsuits, but a clever man can avoid them.

³ An energetic man who does godless things, can bring damage to the poor like a storm.

⁴ Those leaving the Law will praise godless ways; but to those who love it, the Law is a wall.

⁵ The evil don't understand fairness; but those seeking Jehovah know it well.

⁶ It's better to be poor and walking in truth, than to be rich and a liar.

⁷ A discerning son follows the Law, but those driven by lust, dishonors their fathers.

⁸ Those who gain wealth by charging interest, will [pay it] to those who are kind to the poor.

⁹ [God] hates the prayers of the man, who turns his ears from hearing the Law.

¹⁰ He who leads the righteous toward bad, will also fall into corruption. The honest will claim all his good things, and he will not enter among them.

¹¹ A rich man thinks himself wise, but intelligent poor see right through him.

¹² When the righteous triumph, there's glory; but when wicked succeed, men will hide.

¹³ He who excuses his ungodly ways, won't live to see prosperity. But, he who admits and corrects it is loved.

¹⁴ Blest is the man who worships in awe; but those with hard hearts will see evil.

¹⁵ Like a thirsty wolf or a lion that's hungry, is the king who rules a poor nation.

¹⁶ A king who doesn't tax learns to extort; but those hating corruption will live a long life.

¹⁷ The man who stands good for a loan, is the same as a man blamed for murder; for he will be sent into exile, where he won't find a safe haven.

¹⁸ The one who travels right ways will be helped, while those walking crooked paths will get tangled.

- ¹⁹ The man who works his land will eat bread, but those seeking easy lives will be poor.
- ²⁰ A trustworthy man will be praised over much, and the evil will not go unpunished.
- ²¹ Those who look down the righteous are bad... for a scrap of food, I'd sell such a man.
- ²² Evil eyes are in a hurry to gain wealth, but they don't know that poverty awaits them.
- ²³ Those offering correction will be loved, more than those who just flatter.
- ²⁴ He who throws out his father and mother, assumes he's not guilty of sin; but he's truly a partner to the godless.
- ²⁵ A dissatisfied man makes bad choices, but those yielding to God find His loving care.
- ²⁶ A fool yields to the rash ways of his heart; but, those who are wise will stay safe.
- ²⁷ Those giving to the poor will not be in want, while those who overlook them will never be filled.
- ²⁸ Where the rulers are godless, the righteous will moan; but the righteous will prosper when they're destroyed.

Chapter 29

- ¹ It's better to accept correction, than to be someone who's [proud]. For, upon the proud will come sudden fire, from which he cannot be healed.
- ² When the righteous are honored, the people rejoice; but when the godless rule, people moan.
- ³ Lovers of wisdom bring joy to their fathers, but those seeking whores destroy wealth.
- ⁴ A righteous king makes his land stable, but a lawless king tears it down.
- ⁵ The one who sets a snare for a friend, wraps it around his own feet.
- ⁶ A snare is set for those who choose sin, bringing joy and gladness to the righteous.
- ⁷ The righteous give justice to the poor, which the irreverent do not understand; so, of the poor, they're bad judges.
- ⁸ Those fond of mischief will burn down their town, but the wise can turn back their rage.
- ⁹ A wise man will judge many nations, but the ignorant bring rage, ridicule, and disrespect.
- ¹⁰ Partners in blood hate the holy and upright, so they keep seeking their lives.
- ¹¹ A fool will show all his rage, but those who are wise hold it in.
- ¹² A king who will listens to unrighteous things, brings joy to [the hearts] of the lawless.
- ¹³ In meetings between lenders and debtors; Jehovah observes their agreements.
- ¹⁴ When a king gives justice to the poor, he brings good reports to his throne.
- ¹⁵ Spankings and scoldings bring wisdom; but a child who is left to his own ways, will soon bring shame to his parents.
- ¹⁶ When the godless are many, many will sin. But when they fall, the righteous learn fear.

- ¹⁷ Correct your son and he'll bring you rest... he'll be a decoration to your life.
- ¹⁸ No one will come to save lawbreaking nations; but those keeping the laws will be blest.
- ¹⁹ Stubborn servants can't be corrected with words; for if he understands, he still won't obey.
- ²⁰ When you see a man hasty with words; know that he shares the same hopes as a fool.
- ²¹ A man who is raised without purpose, will become somebody's servant, and he'll grieve for himself in the end.
- ²² A man who's enraged looks for reasons to fight, and an angry man seeks ways to sin.
- ²³ Insolence tears down a man, but meekness brings glory from God.
- ²⁴ He who shares with a thief, is one who hates his own life. And if he should hear public cursing, he will never report it.
- ²⁵ Those who fear men will be stumbled, but those yielding to God will find joy.
Disrespect is what stumbles a man, but the one who yields to his lord will be saved.
- ²⁶ Many come to stand before rulers, but true justice comes from Jehovah.
- ²⁷ To the wicked, the righteous are foolish; and to the lawless, those walking straight paths [are just fools].

Chapter 30

The proverbs of Agur, son of JahYeh.

¹ Thus says this man to those trusting in God:
'I'm weary, ² for I'm the most foolish of men,
And the intelligence of man isn't in me.

³ Yet, God has taught me much wisdom,
And the holiest of knowledge, I know.'

⁴ Who has gone into the sky and returned?
Who has gathered the winds to His chest?
Who has bundled the seas in His robe?
Who has laid hold of the ends of the earth?
What is the name He's been given,
And what names do you know that He's called His sons?

⁵ All of God's words are truly pure,
And He's a shield to those who respect Him.

⁶ Don't add to His words or He'll whip you,
And He will prove you a liar.

⁷ These are the things that I've asked Him to do:

· Don't remove Your favor until I have died.

· ⁸ Take away my vain, foolish words.

· Don't give me poverty or wealth... just give me the things that I need, so I can remain self-sufficient.

- ⁹ Don't leave me in need, so I'd steal, and profane the Name of my God.
- ¹⁰ Don't return a [slave] to his master, so he won't have reason to curse or destroy you.
- ¹¹ A bad son curses his father, and doesn't speak in praise of his mother.
- ¹² A bad son is one who judges himself, and refuses to clean up his ways.
- ¹³ A bad son is one that is [proud], and holds himself high in his own eyes.
- ¹⁴ A bad son has teeth that are swords, and molars that are like pruning knives, which he uses to consume the weak of the land, and to take from the needy.
- ¹⁵ To the leech was [born] three dearly-loved daughters; but the three weren't enough to fulfill her. So then she also [gave birth to] a fourth, since she couldn't say 'That's enough!'
- ¹⁶ For, the desires of a woman and the grave can't be filled, as the ground never gets too much water. As with fire and water, it's never enough!
- ¹⁷ May the eyes of those who make fun of their fathers, and dishonor their mothers in their old age, be removed by crows in ravines, and devoured by the young ones of vultures.
- ¹⁸ Three things I can't comprehend, and there's a fourth that I do not know:
 - ¹⁹ The tracks of the flight of an eagle
 - The ways of a snake on a rock
 - The path of a ship as it travels the seas
 - And the ways of a man in his youth.
- ²⁰ As an adulterous wife is still washing herself, she'll claim that she has done nothing wrong.
- ²¹ These three things shake the ground, and the fourth it's unable to bear:
 - ²² When someone's servant becomes king
 - When a fool is filled up with food
 - ²³ When a handmaid's released by her lady
 - When a hateful woman gets a good man.
- ²⁴ There are four lesser things on the earth, and these are wiser than the wise:
 - ²⁵ The ants that are weak, but spend their summers storing food
 - ²⁶ Rabbits that form a weak nation, but make their houses in rocks
 - ²⁷ The locust; for though they live all alone, they march in order when given the command
 - ²⁸ And the lizard with sticky hands. For, though he is easily caught, he lives in the castles of kings.
- ²⁹ There are three things that continue to prosper, and a fourth that is best overlooked:
 - ³⁰ The cub of a lion; for though it's not strong, it won't turn away and it doesn't know fear

- ³¹ A rooster that struts among hens
- A male goat who takes the lead of his flock
- And a king who speaks to his nation.

³² When you lose your joy and raise fists to fight, you are already dishonored.

³³ If you milk, you will have butter; if you squeeze your nose, it will bleed; and if you just keep on talking, arguments and fights will result.

Chapter 31

The words of the King Belonging to God.

¹ These words [that I've written] were spoken by God... through a king came an answer Divine.

He was once asked by his mother: ² 'What, O child, what should I tell you? Which saying of God should I tell my firstborn? What, O child of my belly? What, O child of my vows?

³ 'Don't [waste] your money on women, nor your abilities and mind upon pleasure. Think it all over and follow [my] words... and [do not] drink [too much] wine!

⁴ 'The mighty are easy to anger; so, never offer them wine, ⁵ lest they lose their wisdom in drink. For when they're weak, they make poor decisions.

⁶ Give liquor to those in distress; offer wine to those who are grieving, ⁷ so they can forget their condition, and remember their misery no more.

⁸ 'O son; Open your mouth with words of God, and offer fair judgments to all. ⁹ Open your mouth and judge righteously... stand up for the needy and weak!

¹⁰ 'Who can find an industrious wife? More than precious gems, is her value! ¹¹ If the heart of her husband courageously guards her, he'll never be lacking good treasures. ¹² For, she uses her strength to support him; she wastes not her life in doing what's bad. ¹³ She works with her hands spinning linen and wool, ¹⁴ and acts like a ship that trades far away... and that's how she gathers her money.

¹⁵ 'She arises while it's still night, along with her female attendants, to ready the food for her household. ¹⁶ She may see a farm and then buy it... from the fruits of her hands, she gains more.

¹⁷ 'She wraps her waist to give it support, and readies her arms to do work. ¹⁸ She's tasted and found work is good, and she keeps her lamp lit through the night.

¹⁹ 'She reaches for things advantageous, and applies her hands to the spindle. ²⁰ She opens her hands to the needy, and stretches her arms toward the poor.

²¹ 'She wouldn't consider using what's his, whenever he's gone for a while; and all who are hers will have enough clothes.

²² 'A doubled coat made out of goat's hair, she has sewn for her man; and from the bolt-ends of linen and purple, she also made one for herself. ²³ So her husband is admired when he sits at the gate, and meets with the rest of the elders.

²⁴ 'She takes fine linen to make loincloths, for all of her Canaanite [slaves]. ²⁵ She's

[proud] of her strength and her beauty, and is happy throughout her last days.

²⁶ 'She opens her mouth to speak wisdom and Law, and charity rests on her tongue. ²⁷ Her pastimes are things that shelter her home, and the grain of laziness, she doesn't eat.

²⁸ 'She raises her sons so they will grow rich, and her husband offers her praises. ²⁹ Her many daughters will also be wealthy, by doing the things that she's [taught them].

'But you are still the first [in her eyes]... above all the rest, she holds you.

³⁰ 'Beauty and allurements are false, so that isn't what you should seek. Find a woman who's praised and discerning... one who's known for her fear of [the Lord]. ³¹ Take from her, the fruit of her lips, and you'll always be praised at the gates.'

Ecclesiastes

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A poem or song written by Solomon about 1000-BCE.*

Chapter 1

¹ **These are the sayings of the great congregator, the son of David, the king of IsraEl in JeruSalem.**

² 'All is foolishness and waste,' said he, the great congregator. 'Foolishness and waste... all that's done is in vain. ³ What value does man gain from the things he has done, and the things he's worked hard for under the sun?'

⁴ One generation passes away, and then another arrives, but the earth remains through the ages. ⁵ For the sun keeps rising and setting, as it draws to it's place, ⁶ and the winds blow in from the south, as they move to the north in a circle... then they go back and come 'round again. ⁷ Though all the rivers flow to the sea, the sea does not become filled. For, to the places from which they all came, they return and flow back again. ⁸ So, no man can speak all the words he might say, nor are his eyes filled with all he can see, and his ears can't be filled with all he can hear.

⁹ What is this thing that [just] happened? The same thing will happen again! What is this thing being done? The same thing will be done in the future! For there's nothing that's new under the sun.

¹⁰ Who can say, 'Look, here's something new!' For the same thing has happened for ages, to those who have lived before us. ¹¹ But the things that they did were forgotten, and those who are born in the future, won't remember the things that we're doing now.

¹² The great congregator is the king, over all of IsraEl from JeruSalem. ¹³ So I set my heart to survey and inquire, about all that has happened under the sky. God gave me this to distract me from bad, and to lead sons of men back to Him.

¹⁴ I've seen all that's done under the sun, and I find it to be a waste of [good] breath. ¹⁵ For, things that go wrong are never made right, and there's too much wrong to be counted.

¹⁶ Once I spoke in my heart and I said: 'Look how great I've become! For, I've been given more wisdom, than all who've lived [here] before me! So I set my heart to learn wisdom and knowledge; ¹⁷ and wisdom and knowledge, my heart beheld, as well as higher learning and proverbs. It became the resolve of my spirit, ¹⁸ to gain an abundance of wisdom, along with volumes of knowledge. But, those who gain knowledge also gain pain.

Chapter 2

¹ I said to my heart, 'Well come now; I'll [fill] you with joy and then you'll know good!' But, even that was just folly.

² To laughter, I said, 'You're a burden!' And to joy, I asked, 'What have you achieved?'

³ So I thought in my heart, 'I'll drink wine for my flesh!' But my heart then led me toward wisdom.

Next, I decided to hold onto joy, until I could see just what kind of good, ⁴ there is to be found among sons of men, and what they can do in their short days of life. ⁴ So thereafter, I went into action; I planted vineyards and built many homes. ⁵ I made myself gardens and parks, which I planted with all sorts of fruit. ⁶ Around them, I dug ponds and lakes, to water the groves filled with trees. ⁷ I acquired many slaves (both women and men), and many native servants were born.

I also acquired great herds and flocks... more than all who had come before me. ⁸ I collected much silver and gold for myself... the possessions of kings and estates. I prepared for myself many singers... men and women were brought to amuse me. I had men and women who just served me wine; ⁹ then I became great as my wisdom increased (more than all who had come before me); and indeed, my wisdom was proven.

¹⁰ Everything that I could ask for, was there in front of my eyes, and no joy was withheld from my heart. But though these efforts of my heart made me happy; this was the sum of what I'd achieved. ¹¹ For, when I looked at all I had done, and the things that I'd made with my hands... when I considered the effort it took, I saw that it was all just folly. Since, no matter what our spirits may choose to do; it brings no advantage under the sun.

¹² Thereafter, I examined my wisdom, and I saw that it too was just folly. For, who under the sun will follow my words... which man will do [what I've said]? Although the wise may have eyes in their heads, the fools will still travel in darkness. And I knew that both them and I, will eventually all meet together. ¹⁵ So I said in my heart, 'Since the fate of fools will also take me; what value is there in my wisdom?'

And I also said this in my heart: 'The things that I've said about being a fool, are also just [wasted breath]; ¹⁶ for, both wise fools are forgotten, and what they do will not be remembered. So, how are the wise any better than fools?'

¹⁷ Then, I became disgusted with life; for, all that I've done under the sun, will eventually end up as bad... it's all foolish and a waste [of good] breath.¹⁸ I became disgusted with all of the things, which I had accomplished under the sun... for I'll leave it to the one who comes next. ¹⁹ And who knows if he's wise or a fool... who knows if he'll care for the things I have made, or for the things I've discerned under the sun? So, all of this is just folly!

²⁰ Thus, I turned to dismiss from my heart, all the results of my efforts, and all that I'd made under the sun.

²¹ There's a man who worked hard to gain wisdom, as well as knowledge and courage. But there's also a man who made no such effort, and he will receive the same fate. So, this is a great wicked folly.

²² What happens to a man and his efforts, and the resolve of his heart under the sun? ²³ During all of his days there is pain, and rage over things that are being destroyed; thus, during the night, his heart doesn't rest. So indeed, this too is just folly.

²⁴ Nothing worthwhile comes to a man, but eating, drinking, and searching for good... and all these things come from God's hand; ²⁵ for without Him, who's able to eat or to drink? ²⁶ Then to those He finds good, He gives wisdom, as well as knowledge and joy, while from the sinners, He rips it away! Then they're given to those whom He deems as good, and who stand before the face of [our] God. Yet, this is also just folly, and a waste of [good]

breath.

Chapter 3

¹ For all that's under the sky, there is a season and time...
² there are times to give birth and times that bring death;
there are times when we plant and times when we harvest;
³ there are times to destroy and times to do healing;
there are times to build and times to tear down;
⁴ there are times to laugh and times to spend weeping;
there are times when we mourn and times when we dance;
⁵ there are times to throw stones and times to gather them up;
there are times to hug and times to push away;
⁶ there are times to lose things and times to find them again;
there are times to collect and times to discard;
⁷ there are times to sew and times to rip out;
there are times to speak up and times to stay silent;
⁸ there are times when we love and times when we hate;
there are times of peace and times for going to war...
⁹ so, what can your efforts accomplish?

¹⁰ I've seen the amusements God's given, to the sons of men to distract them. ¹¹ All things that God made are good in their time. And though He's put ages of time in our hearts, no man knows all the things that we've done, from the most ancient times to the present. ¹³ So, whenever a man has enough food and drink, he finds that his ways have been blest, and he knows that these gifts come from God.

¹⁴ Everything that God's done, was done to last through the ages; so, to such things, you can add nothing more, nor can you take them away. For, all that God has accomplished, was done so we'd live before Him in fear. ¹⁵ And all that is, has already been; for, it has all happened before... and God searches to see which things we've pursued.

¹⁶ I've also noticed that under the sun, there's a place where the godless are judged, and a place where He judges the righteous. ¹⁷ So, in my heart I've concluded, that both the unrighteous and just will be judged. Yes, there is a season for all, and for every action, there is a right time.

¹⁸ I said in my heart what sons of men say... that God looks upon us as cattle. ¹⁹ For the outcome for man is the same as his herds... as this one dies, so dies the other, since we all share the same breath. So, how are men better than cattle? They aren't... and it's all just a joke! ²⁰ For we all go to the same place... we come from the dust and return to the dust. ²¹ So who knows if man's breath goes upward, or the breath of cattle goes down to the ground?

²² In all of this, I saw [little] that's good, except to find joy in the things that we do... yes, this is all we've been given. For, who will lead us to see, the things that will happen after [we're gone]?

Chapter 4

¹ I've turned and I've seen it all... the extortions and other such things, which happen

under the sun. I've seen power in the hands of extorters, and I've seen the tears of the swindled... and that no one came to bring comfort.

² I've also praised the things of the dead; for, more have died than now live. ³ And the best of these two is the one not yet born... one who has yet to see all the evil, that will be done under the sun. ⁴ I beheld all their efforts and acts of great courage... men's rivalries with their companions. And I see that it all is just foolish, and a huge waste of [good] breath.

⁵ The fool folds his hands and then eats his own flesh. ⁶ But it's better to enjoy a handful in peace, than to have double and be in distress; for, this is also a waste of good breath.

⁷ I turned and saw man's foolish ways... all that he's done under the sun. ⁸ There are those who live all alone, and who have no dependents. But, though they have no brothers or sons, they deprive their lives of what's good. And indeed, this too is just folly... it's just a distraction from bad.

⁹ Two [people] are better than living alone, for the efforts of two return a good wage... ¹⁰ if one stumbles, his partner will lift him. But, woe to the one who stumbles and falls, and has no partner to raise him.

¹¹ When two share a bed, they'll be warm... but when there's just one, how can he stay warm? ¹² And a person alone can be beaten, but two make a better defense... and a three-cord rope is harder to break.

¹³ It's better to be a poor child that's wise, than an old king who is foolish, and no longer listens [to council]. ¹⁴ For he reigns within his own prison, and in his own kingdom, has nothing.

¹⁵ I've looked upon all of the living (all those who are walking under the sun), and I see the young of the next generation, who will soon be their replacements. ¹⁶ There's no limit to all of the people, or to all of those who have come before. Yet, the last take no joy in the first; so this too is foolish and a waste of good breath.

Chapter 5

¹ Watch your feet as you enter God's House (whenever you go there to listen), and bring an offering that is better, than all the gifts of the foolish, who are unaware of the bad that can come.

² Don't let your mouths speak too quickly, or let your hearts be too hasty, when making [a vow] in the presence of God. For, God is up in the heavens, and you are here on the earth; so let your words remain few.

³ As many [concerns] bring [bad] dreams; there are many words in the voices of fools. ⁴ So, when you make a vow to [your] God, don't waste any time to repay it, since He doesn't like vows that are foolishly made. So, whatever you vow, you should bring! ⁵ For it's best that you don't make a vow, than to vow and then fail to pay it!

⁶ Don't let your mouth lead your flesh into sin, and don't say too much in the presence of God. [Do not say] stupid things, so you don't anger Him with your words, and bring destruction to the works of your hands. ⁷ You may have many daydreams and follies... but fear to say many words, whenever you go before God.

⁸ If you see the needy extorted and robbed, by lawsuits and by legal actions; don't pay this

too much attention. For, from above, the High One keeps watch... He sees what goes on under [heaven].

⁹ The bounty of the land is for all, and even a king needs a field to be worked. ¹⁰ But for those who love silver, there's never enough, and with plenty comes even more young... and indeed, this too is just folly. ¹¹ For, when you have many good things, there will also be many to eat it. So what value is there in getting much more, when it's only realized by your eyes?

¹² Sleep is always sweet to a slave, whether he has little or much... but the rich don't get enough sleep.

¹³ I've seen all this illness under the sun... such as those who store up much treasure, ¹⁴ which is soon to be lost in hard times. So, wealth is just a distraction from bad.

When a man fathers a son, the child arrives here with nothing at all. ¹⁵ Naked he comes from his mother's womb, and when he goes, he leaves the same way... with nothing to show for his efforts, and nothing to carry back in his hands. ¹⁶ Indeed, this is illness that's evil; for how he arrives is how he returns. And what advantage has he gained from his efforts, when they're [carried away] in the wind?

¹⁷ In darkness and mourning, man fills his days... in anger, illness, and rage. ¹⁸ I've seen good in the things that we eat and drink, and I've seen good come from man's efforts... in all he's accomplished under the sun, and in the portion of life that God has allowed. ¹⁹ For, those who gain wealth and possessions from God, are allowed to own them and eat them; thus they reap the joy of their efforts... and these are [the true] gifts from God! ²⁰ So, though they'll forget most days of their lives, God amused them with joy in their hearts.

Chapter 6

¹ There is something bad that I have beheld, which is common to all living under the sun. ² It's when God gives him wealth, possessions, and glory, and he lacks nothing that his soul desires; then he's not allowed the time to [enjoy] it, and it's all given to strangers... this is sickness and folly.

³ If a man should live to a hundred (no matter how long the days of his years), and his life is not filled with goodness; before he's buried, I'd say: 'It would be better if he'd been miscarried.' ⁴ For, from the darkness he came, then into then darkness he left, and in darkness his name will be covered. ⁵ Indeed, he knew not the sun, and none would know him from others. ⁶ And if he came back and lived thousands [of years], but still never saw what was good; wouldn't it still be the same?

⁷ All men can do is just fill their mouths; yet their lives are never fulfilled. ⁸ Why, what advantage have the wise over fools? For, only the poor put living first.

⁹ It's better to have a dream in your eyes, than to see what will happen in life; since all of that is just folly, and a huge waste of good breath.

¹⁰ Whenever something new comes along, it has already been named [in the past]. And though a man knows his own [strength], he's unable to judge when someone is stronger.

¹¹ There are so many things that make foolishness grow, ¹² and what does this mean for a man? Who knows what is good for him in his life, and how many of his days will be

foolish? For his life is much like a shadow, and who can report to a man, what under the sun will succeed him.

Chapter 7

¹ A good name is better than oil. Yes, the day that you die is much better, than the day you were born.

² It's better to go to a funeral, than it is to go to a banquet; for, that is the end of all men, and it's good for all who are living, to take the good warnings to heart.

³ Indignant rage is better than laughter; for a face that's been hurt creates a good heart. ⁴ So the hearts of the wise are at funerals, while the hearts of fools [search for] pleasure.

⁵ It's better to hear the scolding of the wise, than to hear the [praises] of fools.

⁶ As the [crackling] of tinder under the pot, is the sound of the laughter of fools; for this is also just folly.

⁷ Extortion will drive wise men crazy; for it destroys their heart's greatest plans.

⁸ The way that a matter turns out, is better than when it was started.

It's better [for a man] to forgive, than to have a high-minded spirit.

⁹ Don't get angry too quickly; for rage rests in the bosoms of fools.

¹⁰ Don't ask why past days were better; for in asking such things, there's no wisdom.

¹¹ Wisdom brings plenty of good, to those who can still see the sun; ¹² for in its shadow is wisdom, and the shadow of silver.

The advantage of those who know wisdom, is that it gives life to those who can find it.

¹³ Behold the actions of God; for, who can add to whatever He brings?

¹⁴ Enjoy the good life during good days, for you know that bad days will come!

{Look!} Harmonious words, God sent through this man, so people will need nothing more!

¹⁵ I've seen it all in my foolish days; I've seen the righteous unjustly destroyed, and the irreverent continue in evil.

¹⁶ Don't be too righteous or wise, so you'll not be overwhelmed by it all. ¹⁷ Nor should you be disrespectful, lest you get hard and die before it's your time.

¹⁸ It's best to hang onto whatever is good, and not to dirty your hands; for, everything comes to those who fear God.

¹⁹ Wisdom has much greater power, than ten mighty men in a city.

²⁰ There's no man who's righteous on earth... none who do good and are free from all sins.

²¹ Don't keep all things that are said in your heart, and don't notice when you're cursed by your servants. ²² For against you, they'll say wicked things, and often they'll hurt you at heart... just as you've often cursed others.

²³ All these things, I have tested as wisdom. But though I say that I understand, it has

stayed too far from my grasp... ²⁴ it's too high above me and too deep below, so who is able to find it? ²⁵ To understand, I've searched my heart through; I've looked it all over and sought what is wise; I have reasoned and know how the godless are fools, and of how they're misled to do wrong.

²⁶ I find her more bitter than death... the woman with snares and nets in her heart, and who creates slaves with her hands. Only those who are found to be good before God, will be delivered from her, while those who sin will be captured.

²⁷ 'Look! This is what I have found,' says the great congregator. 'I've counted and carefully searched, ²⁸ seeking with my whole soul... but I was unable to find, a man in a thousand who's [righteous], and none at all among women! ²⁹ This is the one thing I've found: God deals with the man who is upright, and He searches for ways to reward him.'

But who knows who truly is wise, and who comprehends the meanings of proverbs?

Chapter 8

¹ Wisdom makes faces brighter, but impudent faces are hated.

² Watch the mouth of a king, because of the oath that God gave! ³ Don't depart from his face in a hurry, and don't go to him for wrong reasons. For he'll do whatever he pleases; ⁴ and who can ask of the king: 'Why did you make [that decision]?'

⁵ Those who keep the Commandments, don't think about things that are bad; and wise hearts discern right times and right ways.

⁶ There's a time and a ruling for all; for the knowledge of men ranges widely. ⁷ And since no one knows what will happen, who can tell him the future?

⁸ No man controls [his own] spirit, nor is he able to keep it in check. None can avoid the day of their deaths, and none can avoid days of war... nor can irreverence avoid what she's due.

⁹ I have now seen it all... I've given my heart to all that's under sun. And all that a man is able to do, is just bring bad on himself.

¹⁰ I've seen the irreverent carried to tombs, out of a place that is Holy. There they were praised in the city, for all the things they had done... and this is also just folly.

¹¹ When no one opposes the wicked, men's hearts feel safe in turning toward bad, ¹² and those who sin are guilty of sins, will just go on living their lives.

I know that good comes to those who fear God, and before Him, we all should be fearful.

¹³ But, good doesn't come to the godless, and they will not lengthen their days. They are just shadows [that pass], since they show no fear before God.

¹⁴ There is even more folly that's done on the earth... as when the righteous receive what the guilty deserve, and the godless receive what the righteous deserve... yes, this is also just folly!

¹⁵ So, though I may sing their praises in joy, there's nothing good that happens to man, anywhere under the sun, other than eating, drinking, and pleasure... yes, that's all there is to man's efforts... it's what he's been given by God, as [his portion] under the sun.

¹⁶ So I turned my heart to learn wisdom, and to overlook what's done on the ground. For, both day and night, men sleep with [closed] eyes, so they cannot see what goes on.

¹⁷ Then I started to observe the actions of God, which men under the sun haven't noticed. For, despite all the efforts they put in their search, they've been unable to find it. And though the wise speak of knowledge, they are also unable to find it. But, because I gave my heart to discernment; these are the things that my heart came to see.

Chapter 9

¹ The deeds of the righteous and wise, are in the hands of our God. Yet, with all of their loves and dislikes, man cannot comprehend it... ² for, foolish are the ways of all men!

There are things that happen to the righteous, and things that happen to the godless... and to either can come good or bad. There are both the clean and unclean; there are those who will bring sacrifices, and those who will offer God nothing. Yet, the same things [happen to] both... to the good as well as to sinners... to those who choose to swear oaths, and to those who fear to swear oaths. ³ In all of this, there is evil, in what is done under the sun; for, the same things happen to both.

Indeed; the sons of men's hearts are filled what's bad, and madness throughout all their lives... and then they go to the grave. ⁴ But, for the living, there is still hope, since a living dog is much greater, than a lion that has died. ⁵ For the living know that they'll die, but the dead know nothing at all, nor do they have a reward, since the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their loves and dislikes are both gone, and their zeal has already perished. Then, through the age they'll not be involved, in whatever is done under the sun.

⁷ So, eat your bread in contentment, and drink to your heart with fine wines... and God will think well of your actions. ⁸ May your clothes always be white, and may there be plenty of oil for your head. ⁹ Share what you have with the woman you've loved, all the days of your wasted life. This is all you will get under the sun, and the days of your life are a folly... this is all your life really amounts to, for all of your efforts under the sun.

¹⁰ So, whatever your hands find to do; do it with all of your power! For there's no doing, thinking, wisdom, or knowledge, in the place of the dead where you're going.

¹¹ I turned and saw that under the sun, the race isn't won by those fleet of foot, nor are battles all won by the mighty. The wise aren't always those who eat bread; the discerning aren't always the rich; nor are those with knowledge shown favor. Yet, there's a time and a meeting for all, ¹² and no one knows when his time will arrive. As fish being caught in a net, and as birds being trapped in a snare; the sons of men are caught swiftly, in a bad time that quickly arrives.

¹³ I've beheld all this wisdom under sun, and it rests heavily on me.

¹⁴ If a city is small with just a few men, and a mighty king comes to attack it, building high siege mounds around it; ¹⁵ and if a man poor but wise can be found there, and his wisdom results in saving that town; all will forget he was poor. ¹⁶ So this is what I can tell you: 'Wisdom is better than power.' But the wisdom of the poor is treated with contempt, and none pay attention to their words. ¹⁷ Yet, the words of the wise who have nothing, should be heeded over words of those foolish, who have been given the power, ¹⁸ since wisdom is better than weapons of war, and just one sin can destroy all the good.

Chapter 10

- ¹ As a dead fly can spoil a good ointment; a little folly can conquer great wisdom.
- ² The hearts of the wise are at their right hands, but the hearts of fools stay on their left. ³ So, whichever way fools choose to go; in their hearts, they're sure that they'll fail, so they think that they can't succeed.
- ⁴ If the spirit of a ruler flares against you, don't turn away from your place; for, [patience] will heal all great sins.
- ⁵ I've observed a wickedness under the sun: It's when a ruler does something in haste, ⁶ and puts a fool over something important, while those who've proven their worth are put low. ⁷ I've seen slaves who are riding on horses, and princes who are walking like slaves on the ground.
- ⁸ The one who is digging a cesspool, is also the one who'll fall in it; and those who move boundary markers, will find themselves bitten by snakes.
- ⁹ Those who work in quarries may be harmed by the rocks, and those who split logs are in danger.
- ¹⁰ If the axe isn't sharp, you'll work harder; so, doing what's wise paves the way for success.
- ¹¹ If a charmer whispers and his serpent still bites; all his snake charming is worthless.
- ¹² Words from a wise mouth bring favor; but foolish lips tear it back down. ¹³ And if words start off as foolish, they will end in what's wicked and crazy.
- ¹⁴ The fool often speaks many words, but he doesn't know what will happen, or the things that will come to be; so, who'll walk behind and announce him?
- ¹⁵ The efforts of fools bring them trouble... for they don't know the right ways to enter a town.
- ¹⁶ Woe to you, O great city, where your king is just a young [man], and your princes eat meals in the mornings. ¹⁷ Blest is the land where the king's born to nobles, and whose princes eat at the right times. For, what they eat makes them strong, so they will never be shamed.
- ¹⁸ By sloth and neglect a home [falls apart], and with idle hands, [its roof] starts to leak.
- ¹⁹ Bread, wine, and oil are made to cause laughter, and to bring joy to the living... but they must also be [paid for].
- ²⁰ Never curse a king in your mind, nor curse the rich in your bedrooms or closets; for your words will be carried by birds in the sky, and those with wings will report what you've said.

Chapter 11

- ¹ Scatter your [seeds] on the water, and after some time, you will find them. ² So, share what you have with seven or eight, since you don't know what bad may come to the land.
- ³ For, if the clouds become filled, they will send rain to the ground. And if a tree falls toward the north of the south, wherever it falls, it will stay.

⁴ Those who look to the wind may not plant, and those who look to the clouds may not reap; ⁵ for, attempting to know which way the wind blows, is like knowing the bones in the womb of a mother... you don't know the actions of God, or any of the things He will do. ⁶ So, start your planting in the morning, and don't stay your hand 'til the evening; for you never know what will grow over here, or what will grow over there... or if the two will grow well together.

⁷ Daylight is sweet and it's good for the eyes, to be able to see by the sun. ⁸ But, though a man's years may bring him much joy, he'll also know many dark days... and all that will come is just folly.

⁹ Take joy, young man, in your youth; and may your heart do good while you're young. May your heart walk in ways that are pure, not in the ways that you see with your eyes... for, know that this leads to God's judgment. ¹⁰ So, remove all the rage from your heart, and all the wicked ways from your flesh; for, youth's thoughtless ways are all folly!

Chapter 12

¹ Remember your Creator in the days of your youth; for, bad days will come [all too soon], and the years will arrive when you'll say, 'I never wanted [to see] them!' ² [It's a time when] the sun becomes dark, and you'll not see the light of the moon or the stars, or the clouds passing by after rain. ³ It's a day when the watchman starts to tremble... when the powerful man is bent over double, and the grinders cease because they are few. Then women will stare from their windows at darkness, ⁴ and they will lock all their doors, in fear of the sounds of those who grind in the market.

Then the sound of a sparrow will wake you; and the daughters of song will be humbled. ⁵ From above, you'll look down and see, frightening things on the road. Then, at the time when almonds should bloom, the locusts will grow to be many, and capers will drop on the ground... for, you'll have gone to your home of the ages.

Then people will circle the market, beating their chests in mourning for you. ⁶ For the silver cord has been severed; the gold decoration is broken; the bucket at the well has been shattered; and the wheel has rolled into the pit. ⁷ That which is dust went back to the ground, from which it once had been taken; and the breath has also returned, to the God who once gave it.

⁸ 'Oh how silly and foolish,' says the great congregator. ⁹ Yet to him, there came even more wisdom, and he taught all his knowledge to men... he traced it all out and composed it as proverbs.

¹⁰ The great congregator searched for the words, and he wrote them as right ways of truth... ¹¹ as words to the wise and as ox goads... as nails that are hammered in tight. They're agreeable things from a shepherd; ¹² so, carefully guard them, my son!

Many scrolls have been written (yes, to them, there's no end), and spending much time thinking about them, is just a weariness to the flesh. ¹³ But listen, for this is what I've concluded: Fear God and keep His Commandments... this is all there is for a man! ¹⁴ The rest just leads to judgment by God, who decides whether we have been bad or good.

Song of Solomon

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians.
A song written by Solomon around 1000-BCE.*

*Note: The Song of Solomon can be some of the most difficult reading in the Bible, for it is a two-way conversation between a man and a woman separated by the unlikely distance of the private suite of the king and the place of shepherds in the fields, and just who is speaking is not always identified. However, remember that it is a song, not a narration. And to clarify who is speaking, we have placed what appear (from the tenses) to be the woman's words in **Bold Type**.*

Chapter 1

¹ The song of all songs by Solomon.

² **May you kiss me with kisses from your mouth, [for, the feel] of your chest is better than wine.** ³ **And the smell of your scent is much better, than the odor of all the perfumes, which have been poured in your name. Because of this, young women have loved you.** ⁴ **And they are the ones who drew me toward you; so, toward the scent of your fragrance we ran.**

But the king has carried me off, into his private apartments. Yet I shout in joy and am glad over you, for I love your chest more than wine... and the love that I have is [pure].

⁵ **O daughters of JeruSalem; I am pretty and tan, like tents in the Valley of Cedars, and as [King] Solomon's leathers.** ⁶ **Don't bother to look, for I'm very dark, because [I've worked hard] in the sun. The sons of my mother quarreled with me, and made me work hard in a vineyard. Yes, I was a keeper of vineyards, which were never my own.**

⁷ **O tell me, you who are loved by my life; where indeed do you tend [your sheep]... yes, where are you napping at noon? For I wish to be wrapped all around you, there among your companions of flocks.** ⁸ **If you aren't sure, O my fair one, follow at the heels of the flocks, and tend your kids close to the tents of the Shepherds.**

⁹ **As my horse from the chariots of Pharaoh... that's how I [view] you, my dear one.** ¹⁰ **Your cheeks are as pretty as doves, and your neck's like the pendant ¹¹ that I'll make you, out of gold that's accented with silver.**

¹² **When the king came to lie down, the oils I was wearing gave off their smell.** ¹³ **But to me, the man that I love, is like a bundle of balsam, and between my breasts he will stay.** ¹⁴ **My love is a cluster of cypress; he's like the vineyards of EnGedi.**

¹⁵ **{Look!} You're so pretty my dear one, and your eyes are like those of doves.**

¹⁶ **{Look!} And you're so handsome, my dearly-loved man; and pretty [will be] our bed in the shade,** ¹⁷ **where the beams of our house made out of cedar, and our barns will be made from cypress trees.**

Chapter 2

¹ **I am a flower of the fields... yes, I am a lily of the valley.**

² **As a lily in the midst of thorn bushes, is my dear one among many daughters.**

³ And as an apple among trees in the groves, is my loved one amidst other sons. To rest in his shadow, I have desired, and I've found his fruit to be sweet.

⁴ Bring me into the tavern, and therein order me love! ⁵ Cover me with fragrant oils, and then pile apples upon me, for I've been pierced through with love. ⁶ His left hand is under my head, and he draws me close with his right.

⁷ O you daughters of JeruSalem; I want you to swear by the powers and strengths of the fields: Don't arise and awaken your love, until [the time] it's desired.

⁸ Hear the voice of my dearly-loved man. {Look!} He comes, springing over the mountains, and leaping above all the hills; ⁹ for my dearly-loved man is [a fawn], and a stag among many hinds!

{Look!} He's standing outside of my window, and peeking in through the shades. ¹⁰ The man that I love calls out and says, 'Get up and come here, my dear one... O my fair one and dove; ¹¹ for look, the winter has passed, and the rains have poured down and ended. ¹² Flowers have blossomed throughout the land, and the time for pruning's arrived. You can hear the voices of doves; ¹³ the fig trees are putting out buds; and you can smell the blossoms of grapes.

'Arise and come here, my dear one... get up and come here, my dove! ¹⁴ Come, my dove, and stay near the rocks, which are piled outside of the wall. Let me see what you look like, and let me hear your voice once again; for I [love] the sound of your voice, and I [love to gaze at] your beauty. ¹⁵ Grab hold of the foxes destroying the vines; for our grapevines are now in full bloom!'

¹⁶ My dearly-loved man is for me, and for him, I am the one. He'll be [outside] tending lilies, until a new day when the clouds will be gone.

¹⁷ O my dearly-loved man; be like the fawn or a buck among hinds, and [stay nearby] in the mountains.

Chapter 3

¹ During the nights, there in my bed; whole-souled, I searched for the one that I love. I searched, but I couldn't find him; I called to him, but he didn't reply. ² So I'll get up and go through the city; I'll search the markets and squares, for the one that I love with my whole soul.

Well, I searched, but I couldn't find him. ³ Then they found me... the ones keeping guard... those who do rounds in the city. [And I asked], 'Have you seen the love of my life?'

⁴ It was shortly after I passed them, that I found the love of my life. I grabbed onto him and wouldn't let go, and took him to the house of my mother... to the bedroom of she who conceived me.

⁵ O daughters of JeruSalem; I want you to swear by the powers and strengths of the fields: Don't arise and awaken your love, until [the time] it's desired.

⁶ Who is this woman that comes from the desert, like smoke arising from the incense, of myrrh, frankincense, and the powders of all the perfumers?

⁷ Look, there is King Solomon's bed, with sixty mighty men standing 'round it, from among all of Israel's great ones. ⁸ Each one is holding his broadsword, and in ways of war, they've been trained. They wear their swords at their thighs, [as they keep watch over us] through the nights.

⁹ King Solomon has a carriage made from Lebanon's cedars, ¹⁰ which has columns of silver, couches of gold, and purple carpets that line all its steps... gifts of love from the daughters of JeruSalem.

¹¹ Come and behold, O daughters of Zion; see Solomon and the crown that he got from his mother, on the day that he wed me, and when his heart was so filled with joy!

Chapter 4

¹ {Look!} You're so pretty my dear one... see how pretty you are! Your eyes look like doves inside of your veil; your hair is as herds of Gilead's goats; ² your teeth [are as white] as freshly-sheared sheep, after they've come from the bath... all of whom have born twins, and none are childless among them.

³ Your lips are like scarlet ribbons, and the way that you talk is so pretty. Your cheeks, when they're outside your veil, are red like pomegranate skins. ⁴ Your neck is like the tower of David (the one that was built for protection), in which hangs the shields of a thousand, as well as the arrows of his mighty. ⁵ And your breasts are just like twin fawns, which are feeding there among lilies.

⁶ Until it comes a new day, and all the shadows are gone, I'll go to the mountain of myrrh, and wait at the frankincense hill.

⁷ Entirely fair is my dear one... she is totally perfect. ⁸ So, come from Lebanon, my bride... from Lebanon, please come back to me! Come to me through the Archway of Trust... from the peaks of Shinar and Hermon... from that place of mountain leopards and lions.

⁹ You have captured my heart, O my sister and bride; you've captured my heart with your eyes, and with your neck of garlands [and flowers]. ¹⁰ Pretty are both your breasts, O my sister and bride. They are better than the finest of wines, and the scent of your clothes exceeds all perfumes. ¹¹ Your lips are like honey dripped from the comb... honey and milk are under your tongue, and as the odor of frankincense are your clothes. ¹² But you're locked in a garden, my sister and bride... like a well that's been covered and sealed.

¹³ All the messages you've sent, are like pomegranate gardens to me... they are like the fruit from the trees... they're like the scent of cypress mingled with nard... ¹⁴ cypress and nard, calamus and saffron, mixed with cinnamon and the smell of Lebanon's cedars, along with aloes and the best of perfumes. ¹⁵ They're like life-giving springs in a garden, and the wells of the waters of life, which from Lebanon, pour down upon us.

¹⁶ So wake up, O north wind... come now! And south wind, breathe life on my garden... come and let its scents flow!

Chapter 5

¹ **May my beloved man now enter his garden, and may he eat the fruit from its trees!**

I went to my garden, my sister and bride, and gathered my harvest of spices and myrrh. I've eaten my bread and its honey, and I've drunk its milk and its wine.

Yes eat, O dear one and drink! Let's both get drunk, my dearly-loved man! ² Though I [want to] sleep, my heart tells me no; for my loved one knocks on my door, and he says: 'Open to me, my sister... open my dear one and my perfect dove. For my head is covered with dew, and my curls [are wet] with the mist of the night. ³ I've already taken off my underclothes; but now, should I put them back on? I have also washed off my feet; so, must I run and get them dirty once more?'

⁴ My dearly-loved man stuck his hand through [my door], and he was aroused [by the touch of my skin]. ⁵ So I got up and opened to him, as my hands were dripping with myrrh, for my fingers dripped myrrh on the lock. ⁶ But when I opened for the one that I love; the man that I love wasn't there.

With my whole soul, I yearned for his voice; so I searched, but I couldn't find him... I called out to him, but he couldn't hear. ⁷ Then they found me (the guards who make rounds through the town)... they struck me and hurt me, and took off my wrap (those who keep watch at the walls).

⁸ So, O JeruSalem's daughters; Swear by the powers and strengths of the fields: Tell me if you've seen my dearly-loved man; for, I've been pierced through by love!

⁹ But who is this man that you love above all, O prettiest one among women? Who is this whom you love so dearly, that you've bound us with such an oath?

¹⁰ My man has white skin and red cheeks... he's the choicest and my one and only. ¹¹ His head is like gold from Kephaz; his curls are flowing like fir trees, and they are as black as a crow. ¹² His eyes are like doves near deep pools... as though bathed in milk over water. ¹³ His mouth is like a bowl filled with spice, which is set out to give a fresh smell. His lips are also like lilies, dripping with full-bodied myrrh; ¹⁴ and his hands are like gold around Tharsis gems. His belly is a tablet of ivory, on which is mounted a sapphire. ¹⁵ His legs are like columns of marble, resting on bases of gold. He looks like the finest of Lebanon's cedars, ¹⁶ and his [voice] is desirable and sweet.

O daughters of JeruSalem; he's the man that I love and my dearest one!

Chapter 6

¹ O prettiest one among women; where has he wandered... where has he gone, so we can search on your behalf?

² My loved one has gone to his garden, to gather his bowls filled with spices. He's gone to tend to his garden, and to gather his lilies.

³ I belong to my dearly-loved man, and my dearly-loved man is [just] mine... he who is tending his lilies.

⁴ You're so pretty, O dear one... as pleasing [to me] as JeruSalem. But you're also as disturbing as [men] preparing for war. ⁵ So, turn your eyes from before me, because they excite me too much. For your hair is like Glied's goats, ⁶ and your teeth [are as white] as freshly-sheared sheep, which have just come from the bath, all of whom have born twins, and none are childless among them. Your lips are like scarlet ribbons, and the way that

you talk is so pretty. ⁷ Your cheeks that show through your veil, are as red as pomegranate skins.

⁸ There are now sixty queens, and eighty concubines more, as well as unnumbered young women! ⁹ Yet, one of them is my perfect dove... she's the only daughter of her mother... the favored one of she who gave birth. The daughters and queens call her blest, and the concubines all [sing] her praises. ¹⁰ 'Who is she, this one that looks like the dawn, and who is as fair as the moon... the chosen one of the sun, who's as disturbing as men preparing for war?'

¹¹ To the grove of walnuts, I traveled... I went down to gaze on their fruits, which are there by the stream in the valley. I went there to see if grapevines had flowered, and to view the pomegranate blossoms. ¹² For my soul had made me like the chariots of nobles.

¹³ Please return, O Shulamite girl! Return, return, for I'm searching for you! How would you know it's the Shulamite girl? She arrives like an army in the camp.

Chapter 7

¹ How pretty are your feet in your sandals, O you daughter of nobles. Your thighs are shaped like fine pendants... the works of the hands of a craftsman. ² Your navel is like a finely-shaped bowl, not lacking a mixture of wines. Your belly is like a mound of best grain, that's wrapped within fields of lilies. ³ Your breasts are like two young fawns... a pair of twins of the doe. ⁴ Your neck is a tower of ivory, and your eyes are like lakes in HeshBon (those by the Gates of Many Daughters). Like Lebanon's Tower, is your nose... the one overlooking Damascus. ⁵ Your head [has the beauty of] CarMel, and its braids are like purple cloth, in which the king's wrapped as he passes.

⁶ How beautiful and delicious you are, O my love, in the luxurious things you possess. ⁷ In greatness, you're much like a palm tree, and your breasts are as clusters of grapes. ⁸ I said that I'd climb up that palm tree, and to its top, I would cling. For your breasts are like clusters of grapes on the vine; the scent of your nose is like apples; ⁹ and [the taste] of your [mouth] is like finest wine.

I'm going to my dearly-loved man straight away, for [I need him close] to my lips and my teeth. ¹⁰ I'll turn to the man that I love, and he will then turn toward me.

¹¹ Come, O man that I love; we'll run to the fields and lodge in the towns! ¹² We'll get up early [and go into] the vineyards, to see if the grapevines have bloomed; to see if the flowers have blossomed; to see if the pomegranates have buded... and there, I'll give you my breasts.

¹³ The mandrakes have given their odor, and new and old fruit trees are outside our doors. O man that I love; I've saved them for you!

Chapter 8

¹ O man that I love, whom I'd grant to nurse at my mother's breasts; If I found you outside, I would kiss you, and none would show disrespect. ² Yes, I will come there and take you... I'll bring you to the house of my mother, and into the room where I was conceived, and where I'd allow you to drink the spiced wine, which comes from my pomegranate nectar.

³ His left hand is under my head, and with his right hand, he holds me.

⁴ O daughters of JeruSalem; I want you to swear by the powers and strengths of the fields: Don't arise and awaken your love, until [the time] it's desired.

⁵ Who is this that ascends from the desert, hanging onto the man that she loves?

From under apple trees, I awoke you, and there was your mother beside you... she who through pain gave you birth.

⁶ Set me as a seal on your heart, and as a seal on your arm! For as strong as death is [my] love for you, and [my] zeal is as hard as the grave. It sparks with the fire of [love's] flames, ⁷ which can't be extinguished with water, nor can the rivers engulf it. But, if a man were to give all he owns for his love, [most] men would think him [a fool].

⁸ 'Our sister is [young] and still has no breasts; so, what should we do on the day she's engaged?' ⁹ If she should be like a wall, we'd build parapets of silver around her. But if she should be like a door, with cedar planks, we would board her.'

¹⁰ I'm a wall and my breasts are like towers; so in their eyes, I let them find peace.

¹¹ In BaAl Hermon, there once was a vineyard, which was owned by Solomon, [the king]. Then to others, he entrusted his vineyard, who would thereafter maintain it. And all men had to pay for its fruit, with a thousand pieces of silver. ¹² [He said:] 'The vineyard before me is mine! So to Solomon, you must pay your thousands, and two hundred more to those tending his fruit.'

¹³ O you who now sit in the garden; my companions have noticed your voice, and the things that you've said to me. So man that I love, you must now run away... be like the doe or the fawn of the hinds, and [hide] in the mountain of spices!

Isaiah

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
Written by IsaiAh over a period from around 800-BCE to around 730-BCE.*

NOTE: Is it poetry or isn't it poetry? Since many of the Chapters of Isaiah were written in the Hebrew poetic style, you will recognize a deliberate cadence to the words. Why poetry? Because it provided memory aids so the thoughts could be readily recalled to mind and thereafter be spread throughout the population via the most common medium of communication at the time, song.

Chapter 1

¹ These are the visions that IsaiAh (the son of Amoz) saw during the reigns of UzziAh, JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh, the kings of Judah about things that were to come upon Judah and JeruSalem.

² Hear, O heavens, and [pay attention] O earth;
For Jehovah spoke and said this:
'I fathered sons and I raised them,
But they've paid no attention to Me.

³ 'Why, every ox knows its owner,
And the burro knows its master's barn;
But by IsraEl, I am unknown,
And My people do not understand.'

⁴ So, woe to you, O sinful nation;
For you're a people who are filled with your sins...
You're an evil seed and lawless sons,
Since you have abandoned Jehovah,
And provoked IsraEl's Holy One to rage...
So now you've been pushed to the rear!

⁵ Why be struck down for [your] lawless ways?
Your whole head is in a miserable condition,
And your whole heart is distressed...

⁶ Nothing is healthy from head to foot.

Your wounds and contusions are inflamed and unhealed,
Since no one has dressed them or applied oil,
Nor have they come here to wrap them.

⁷ Your land has all been destroyed,
And all your cities are burned.
They've devoured the [land] that's before you...
By strangers, it has been destroyed,
And foreign peoples have wiped it away.

⁸ The daughter of Zion is abandoned,
Like an old shack in a vineyard,
Or a shed in a cucumber garden,
Or a city that's being besieged.

⁹ So, unless Jehovah of Armies,
Should choose to leave us a seed...
Like GomorRah and Sodom, we'll be!

¹⁰ Hear the word of Jehovah,
O you rulers of Sodom,
And you people of GomorRah...
Pay attention to the Law of our God,
¹¹ For, He is asking you this:

'What good are the things that you offer to Me?
For I'm gluttoned with your whole burnt offerings of rams,
As well as with the fat of your lambs;
I don't want the blood of your bulls or male goats,
¹² Nor do I want you to stand before Me...
Who asked for such things from your hands?

'I'll not allow you trample My courtyard;
¹³ And if you bring fine flour, you'll do it in vain.
Your incense is now disgusting to Me,
And no longer can I endure your New Moons,
Nor your Sabbaths or other holidays.

¹⁴ 'With My whole soul, I've come to detest,
All your fasts and your Sabbaths,
And all the holidays and New Moons.
With you, I am filled [to the brim],
And I won't [overlook] your sins anymore.

¹⁵ 'So I'll turn My eyes when you hold out your hands,
And not hear, no matter how often you pray...
Because your hands are so filled with blood!

¹⁶ 'Why not bathe yourselves and get clean,
And remove your wicked [ways] from My eyes?
Stop being bad and ¹⁷ learn to do good...
Insist on [judgments that are] fair.

'Rescue those who've been wronged;
Give decisions [in favor of] orphans,
As well as justice to widows,

¹⁸ And again, you can come and plead before me,' says Jehovah.

'Then, if your sins should be crimson red;
As white as snow, [I will make them].
And even if they are like scarlet,
I'll make them as white as fine wool!

¹⁹ 'If you would just listen to Me,
You'd eat good things that come from the ground.

²⁰ But if you choose to rebel and won't listen,
I'll send a sword to consume you.'

[Yes, Jehovah actually] said these things.

²¹ 'How did Zion, that city of faith,
Become a whore so worthy of judgment?
For, murderers exist where justice once slept;

²² All of your silver is tainted;
And your merchants all water their wine.

²³ 'Your rulers resist all persuasion,
And they serve as partners to thieves.
They are also lovers of bribes;
None will stand up for orphans,
And none will give justice to widows!

²⁴ 'Because of this,' says the Lord, Jehovah of Armies;
'Woe to you, O IsraEl's mighty!
For My rage against the contrary won't cease,
And on My enemies, I will pass judgment!

²⁵ 'Against you, I'll bring My hand,
And purify you 'til you're clean!
I'll destroy those resisting persuasion;
I'll remove all the lawless among you,

²⁶ And I will cut down the haughty.

'Then I'll give you judges like those in the past,
And counselors like those who lived long ago.
Then *the Righteous City*, you will be called...
The trusted mother-city of Zion.'

²⁷ 'Through justice and mercy, she will be saved,

²⁸ When the lawless and sinners are broken,
And those leaving Jehovah are gone.

²⁹ 'Of the idols that they once preferred,
And those [sacred] gardens that they once loved,
They will then be ashamed.

³⁰ For they'll be like pines dropping needles,
And like parks without any water.

³¹ 'Their strength [will be weak] like the stubble of hemp,
And the things that they do will then be the sparks,
That burn the lawless and sinners...
Something which no one will come to extinguish.'

Chapter 2

¹ **These are the words that came to IsaiAh (the son of Amoz) regarding Judah and JeruSalem.**

² In the last days,
The Mountain of Jehovah will be seen,
And the House of God will be over the hills,

Raised above highest mountains,
And all the nations will go there.

³ Many nations will go there and say,
'Come, let's ascend the mountain of Jah...
Let's go to the [Temple] of Jacob's God.
For there, He will show us His way,
And that's the way we will go.'

Then Law will come out of Zion,
And the Word of the Lord from JeruSalem.

⁴ He'll judge in the midst of the nations,
And He will correct many peoples.

Then they'll cut their swords into plow shears,
And [shape] their spears into sickles;
[Against other] nations, they won't raise their swords,
Nor will they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob;
Return to the light of Jehovah!

⁶ For from the house of Jacob, He's now turned [His face],
Since it's become what it was at the start...
A [land] that is filled up with takers,
Where Philistine children are now being born.

⁷ They've filled their [land] with silver and gold,
And there's no limit to all of their wealth.
They've also filled it with horses,
And chariots they have, beyond numbers.

⁸ With the disgusting works of their hands,
They've also filled up their land;
They bow before things that they made with their fingers...

⁹ Yes, to such things, the people bow low,
Bringing disgrace to each man.
And now, there's no way that I'll spare them!

¹⁰ So, go to the rocks and hide in the ground,
In fear of Jehovah and the glory of His Might;
For, He will arise to wipe out the land!

¹¹ For the eyes of Jehovah are lofty,
While the eyes of men are debased;
So in that day, these men will be low,
And Jehovah will be lifted up high.

¹² For the day of Jehovah of Armies,
Is coming upon the insulting and proud.
And those who are high and important,
Will soon be brought [to the ground].

¹³ Then, all of Lebanon's tall cedars,
And every great oak tree of Bashan...
¹⁴ Yes, every high mountain and every high hill...
¹⁵ Every high tower and every high wall...
¹⁶ All the boats in the seas and their beauty,
¹⁷ And every man will be small.
For the pride of men will [fall] in that day,
And Jehovah alone will be high.

¹⁸ When He arises to wipe out the land,
Men will hide all [the idols],
That they have made with their hands.
¹⁹ They will hide them in caves,
As well as in cracks between rocks,
And in burrows under the ground,
Because of their fear of Jehovah,
And before the glory of His Might.

²⁰ Then the disgusting things that they've made with their hands
(Those worthless things made of silver and gold,
Which they've made to bow down before),
Will be tossed in front of bats in their caves,
And in the cracks between rocks,
In fear of Jehovah and the glory of His Might,
When He arises to wipe out the land.

Chapter 3

¹ Stop acting like men who breathe through their noses,
For [what value] do they really have?
Consider Jehovah of Armies (our Lord);
For in Judah and throughout JeruSalem,
He'll remove the men and the women,
Along with the strength of [their] bread,
And all the strength of [their] water...
² Their giants, their strong, their soldiers and judges...
Their prophets, their thinkers and elders...
³ Their generals and finest of counselors,
As well as their wisest builders...
The most discerning among them.

⁴ Then, young men He'll appoint as their rulers,
In order to make them look foolish,
⁵ And to make the people act like they're drunk.
The men will all be rebellious,
And arise against their own neighbors;
Young boys will be attacking the old,
And by those without honor, the mighty will be shamed.

⁶ Then, men will grab hold of their brothers,

And families will go to their fathers and say,
'You have clothes; so, you be our leader...
Then you can provide us with food!'

⁷ But, in that day, such ones will reply:
'I will not be your leader,
For I have no bread or clothes in my home.
So, I won't serve as your ruler.'

⁸ JeruSalem has now been forsaken,
And Judah has now been debased!
For the tongues of their people now speak against [God]...
All they discuss is what's lawless,
And they will not make any changes.

⁹ Their glory has now been brought down,
For their faces show no sign of shame,
And they publicly announce and admit,
To sins that are as those of Sodom.

So now, woe to their souls;
For, they have sought wicked council!

¹⁰ They say, 'Let's [lock] up the righteous,
Because they've become inconvenient.'

So they'll reap the fruitage of their bad deeds,

¹¹ And woe will come to the lawless.
For the evil that is now being done by their hands,
Will soon be brought down upon them!

¹² 'O my people;
Those whom you owe are gleaning from you,
And those whom you owe are your lords!

'O my people;
Those who say you are blest, have misled you,
And they're [clouding] the roads for your feet.

¹³ For you're now being judged by Jehovah...
Yes against His own, He's arisen as judge.

¹⁴ Jehovah Himself is judging the elders,
As well as those ruling His people.

'And you, [O elders and rulers];
Why are you burning My vineyard,
And why are the poor [now slaves] in your homes?

¹⁵ Yes, why are you wronging My people,
And disgracing the face of the poor?'
This was asked by Jehovah of Armies (our Lord).

¹⁶ And Jehovah's said:
'Because the daughters of Zion are proud,
And walk with their [noses] held high,

While they beckon with their eyes and walk tiny steps,
 Dragging underwear with their feet;
¹⁷ I'll bring down the daughters of Zion,
 And expose their true state in that day.
¹⁸ I'll remove the glory of their clothes...
 The fringes, crescents, ¹⁹ and necklaces that they wear,
 As well as their facial adornment.

²⁰ [I'll remove] their armlets and bracelets;
 Their wreaths, their rings and right armbands;
²¹ Their earrings, purple fringes, and all decorations,
²² As well as the cloths for their homes...
 Their coverings through which you can see...
²³ Their fine linens interwoven with scarlet and blue...
 The linens interwoven with gold and blue threads,
 And the lightweight coverings for their divans.

²⁴ 'Then instead of pleasant odors, there'll be clouds of dust;
 Instead of belts, they'll tie ropes on their [waists].
 And because of the things that they've done,
 Instead of gold [combs], they'll be bald;
 And instead of fine purple underclothes,
 They'll be forced to wear sackcloth.

²⁵ 'Then the sons you love most will fall by the sword,
 As your mighty will be disgraced and cut down.
²⁶ You'll mourn [the loss] of your [most precious things],
 And then you'll be left all alone,
 Beaten all the way down to the ground.'

Chapter 4

¹ 'In that day;
 Seven women will grab hold of a man,
 And this is what they will say:
*We'll [make] our own bread and wear our own clothes;
 But, let us be called by your name,
 In order to remove all our scorn!*

² 'In that day;
 The glory of the council of God,
 Will shine upon the whole earth,
 In order to raise and bring glory,
 To those few in IsraEl who still remain.

³ 'And the few in JeruSalem and Zion,
 Will then be called, [God's] *Holy Ones*...
 This will happen to those in JeruSalem,
 [Whose names] have been written for Life.'

⁴ Then Jehovah will wash away all the filth,

Of the sons and daughters of Zion.
He'll remove all the blood from JeruSalem's midst,
With the spirit of judgment and fire.

⁵ When He comes, every place on Mount Zion,
Will be in the shade of a cloud every day,
And in the light of a fire throughout the nights...
So His glory will then be their shelter.
⁶ It'll be a shade of protection from heat,
And a shelter from rain and bad weather.

Chapter 5

¹ I'll now sing [a song] to the One that I love... a song of my loved One concerning His vineyard.

A vineyard belonged to One who was loved...
A horn of plenty in a bountiful land.

² Around it, He built a fence and palisade,
Then the choicest of grapevines, He planted.

He built a tower in its midst,
And then He dug out a winepress.
He waited for grapes to start growing,
But, all that grew was thorn bushes.

³ Now, you who dwell in JeruSalem...
Yes, you men who live in Judea...
Judge between Him and His vineyard!

⁴ What can He do for His vineyard,
That hasn't already been done?
He waited for it to grow grapes,
But, all it produced was thorn bushes.

⁵ So I'll tell you what He'll do to His vineyard:
He'll remove its gate and let it be ravaged...
He'll demolish its walls and let it be trampled.
⁶ He'll abandon His vineyard, so it won't be pruned,
Nor will it be hoed in the future.

He'll return it [to the way it once was]...
An uncultivated land of thorn bushes.
And to the clouds, He'll then give the order,
To not provide it with rain anymore.

⁷ The house of IsraEl is the vineyard of Jehovah of Armies,
And the men of Judah are His beloved plants,
On whom He awaited to give Him what's due.
But, they just produced lawless ways...
Instead of a tower of justice,
Cries of distress is all that they brought.

⁸ So, woe to those who gather in homes,
And in the fields roundabout.
For, after your neighbors are taken away,
You will live alone in the land,
⁹ Since Jehovah of Armies has heard all of this!

So, where there were once many houses,
There will be just desolation,
And no one will live there again.

¹⁰ And though you'll plow with ten teams of oxen,
You'll only harvest enough to fill one clay pot.
And though you may plant six large measures,
Only three measures will grow.

¹¹ So, woe to those who rise early,
To spend their days chasing liquor,
And then stay up late as they drink it;
For, they will burn along with their wine.

¹² They drink to [the sounds] of the harp and the lute,
Along with pipes and tambourines,
As they fail to consider the works of the Lord...
The works of His hands, they don't contemplate.

¹³ So my people will all become captives,
Because they've forgotten Jehovah.
Many will die of hunger and thirst;

¹⁴ For the place of the dead has widened its soul,
And opened its mouth to consume.
Then the glorious will fall with the great and the rich,
Along with those who respect them.

¹⁵ My people will then be cut down,
And their men will all be dishonored...
Yes, those who [walked proud] will be shamed.

¹⁶ But the justice of Jehovah of Armies will rise...
And because of His justice,
Our Holy God will be glorified.

¹⁷ Then those who will come to rip you apart,
And on your bulls, they'll be grazing...
Yes, those who will come to wipe out your land,
Will be the ones who are eating your lambs.

¹⁸ So, woe to those drawing sins as with ropes,
And lawless ways as a yoke on a bull...

¹⁹ Those saying, 'Let Him come and do what He wants...
Let Him do it soon, so we'll see it...
Let the Holy One's Will come to pass,
So we can all know what it is!'

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good,
And those who are calling good bad...
Those who turn what's dark into light,
And turn what's light into darkness...
Those who make bitter sweet,
And those who turn sweet into bitter.

²¹ Woe to those who think themselves wise,
And think that they have much knowledge.

²² Woe to your strong ones and those drinking wine...
The mighty who are mixing their liquor...

²³ Those who favor the wicked because they've been bribed...
Yes, those who snatch justice from the righteous.

²⁴ For this, they'll be burned up like stubble...
They'll be burned like coals leaping with flames.
Their roots will then be like dust,
And like clouds of dust, are their flowers.
For, they've rejected the Laws of Jehovah of Armies...
They've despised IsraEl's Holy One's words.

²⁵ So with His people, Jehovah of Armies is enraged,
And to strike them, He's lifted His hand.

[By the smell] of rotting flesh, the mountains were enraged;
For they became like manure on their roads.
Yet, even this didn't [soften] His rage,
Or still the raising of His hand.

²⁶ He'll lift a sign to far away nations...
He'll whistle to them from the ends of the earth,
And they'll take quick notice and come here.

²⁷ They won't get hungry or tired,
Nor will they slumber or sleep.
They'll not untie their belts from their waists,
Nor will they loosen their sandals.

²⁸ With stretched-tight bows [they will come],
And with very sharp arrows.
The feet of their horses will be like hard rocks,
And blasts will come from their chariot wheels.

²⁹ Like lions, they will advance,
With their cubs walking beside them.
Then they'll snatch you and yell like wild beasts,
As they then carry you off,
When no one will be there to save you.

³⁰ Yes, because of you, they'll yell in that day,
Like the sounds of the roar of the seas.
Then you'll look to the heavens above,

And [to the ground] underneath you,
And all you will see is hard darkness,
In your [time] of distress.

Chapter 6

¹ It was during the year King UzziAh died that I saw Jehovah sitting on a high, lofty throne, and the [Temple] was filled with His glory. ² The seraphim stood all around Him, each of whom had six wings that touched the wings next to them. Their first two wings covered their front sides, the second two wings covered their feet, and they flew with their third two wings. ³ They were shouting to each other and saying:

'Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah of Armies!
The whole earth is filled with His glory!'

⁴ Well, the threshold of the [Temple shook] at the sound of their shouting, and the [Temple] became filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: 'O, I'm so unworthy and hurt by this, because I'm just an unclean man who lives among people with unclean lips. Yet, now I have beheld the King, Jehovah of Armies... I've seen Him with my own eyes!'

⁶ Then one of the seraphim was sent to me; and in his hand, he carried a [live] coal that he had taken from the Altar with tongs. ⁷ Then he touched it to my mouth and said: '{Look!} Now that this has touched your lips, It has removed all of your lawless deeds And purged you of all your sins.'

⁸ Then I heard the voice of Jehovah ask:
'Whom shall I send?
Yes, who will go to these people?'

And I replied: 'Look! Here I am, send me!'

⁹ And He said,
'Then, go and say this to these people:
*When it comes to hearing, you'll hear,
But no way will you comprehend.
And when it comes to seeing, you'll see,
But no way will you understand!*

¹⁰ 'Since the hearts of these people have hardened,
With their ears, they now listen slowly,
And they can't see, for their eyelids are closed;
Thus, they will not hear with their ears,
Nor will they see with their eyes,
And their hearts will not comprehend,
To make them turn back, so I'd heal them.'

¹¹ And I asked, 'How long [will this be true], O Lord?'

And He answered:
'Until all the cities lie wasted,
And no one lives there anymore...
Until no one remains in their homes,

And until the whole land has been ravaged.

¹² 'Then, from these people, God will stay far away,
As those who are left multiply.

¹³ But, only a tenth will remain there,
For the rest will be [cut down] like pine trees.

'However; like an acorn that stays in its shell,
The holy seed will remain in the stump.'

Chapter 7

¹ It was in the days of Ahaz (the son of JoTham and the grandson of UzziAh) the king of Judah, that Rezin (the king of Aram) and Pekah (the son of RemaliAh) the king of IsraEl came to JeruSalem to wage war against it... however, they were unable to conquer it. ² So when the house of David was told that Aram had joined forces with Ephraim, they were startled and the souls of the people were shaken like a forest of trees in a windstorm.

³ Then the Lord said to IsaiAh,
'You and your son JaSub (the one whom you left behind) must now go to meet with [King] Ahaz at the upper pool of the washer women, ⁴ and you must tell him this:

*'Do nothing at all and don't be afraid...
Don't let those two pieces of smoking wood,
Make you feel weak [in your knees].
For, when I [send] them My rage,
You will once more be saved.*

⁵ 'And as for the sons of Aram and RemaliAh...
Because they wickedly met and agreed,

⁶ To come to Judea together
To fight you and become the ruler,
Then set the son of TabeAl as the king;
⁷ Tell him that Jehovah of Armies said this:

*'There's no way that your plan will succeed...
It will just never happen.*

⁸ *'The head of Aram is Damascus,
And the head of Damascus is Rezin.
Thus in six, plus five more years,
Ephraim [will be destroyed] by these people.*

⁹ *'For the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
And the head of Samaria is the son of RemaliAh.
But you won't understand, unless you have faith.'*

¹⁰ Then Jehovah [sent a message to] Ahaz, saying:

¹¹ 'Ask for a sign from Jehovah, your God,
Whether from the depths or the heights.'

¹² And Ahaz replied: 'There's no way that I'll ask, nor will I put Jehovah to the test!'

¹³ Then [the messenger] said:

'Listen to this, house of David!
If it's just too unimportant a thing
To supply men for a battle;
How can you fight a war for the Lord?

¹⁴ 'Because of this, Jehovah will give you a sign!
Look! A virgin will get pregnant and then bear a son,
Whose name you must call, ImManuEl.

¹⁵ He'll eat butter and honey before he is sure,
Whether he prefers to be wicked,
Or whether he chooses to do what is right.

¹⁶ 'For, before the boy knows the good from the bad;
By resisting the wicked persuasions,
He will choose to do what is good.

'Then that land of two kings, which you feared,
Will be totally abandoned!

¹⁷ For, God will then bring Assyria's king,
Upon you, your people, and your father's house...
They'll be days that haven't come since the time,
That Ephraim split off from Judah.

¹⁸ 'In that day, Jehovah will whistle,
For the flies on the river of Egypt,
As well as for Assyria's bees.

¹⁹ They will come and settle in your valleys,
As well as in burrows, in rocks, and in caves...
In every hole and in all the trees.

²⁰ 'For in that day;
Jehovah will use Assyria's king,
To bring His razor and shave off those drunks,
[Who live] on the river's [east banks].
He'll shave their heads and the hair on their feet,
And then, he'll cut off their beards.

²¹ 'But, in that day, each man who remains,
Will have a cow and two sheep.

²² So, there will be milk for those who remain,
And [plenty of] butter and honey.

²³ 'Yet, in that day;
Where once grew thousands of grapevines,
Valued at thousands of silver;
Only thorn bushes will grow,
For grape cultivation will cease.

²⁴ 'Then with bows and arrows you'll [hunt] there;
For the land will be wild and covered with thorns.

²⁵ 'All the tillable mountains,

Will thereafter be plowed;
There won't be any more fear;
And the uncultivated land of thorn bushes,
Will become a pasture for sheep...
A land that is trampled by oxen.'

Chapter 8

¹ Then the Lord said this to me:
'Get a large, new scroll of papyrus,
And write upon it with the pen of a man,
About the swift plundering of loot...
For, now it is going to happen!

² 'And appoint these trustworthy men,
To serve as witnesses on my behalf:
Choose UriAh the Priest,
And ZechariAh, the son of BarachiAh.'

³ Well thereafter, I [had sex] with Prophetess, and she got pregnant and gave birth to a son. Then the Lord said to me:

'Call his name, *Quick Gloom and Swift Looting*;

⁴ For, before the child learns how to call
To his own father or mother,
Someone will carry the power of Damascus,
And Samaria's spoils to Assyria's king.'

⁵ Then the Lord spoke to me again and said:

⁶ 'Because these people won't go,
To Siloam's waters in peace,
But want RemeliAh's son Rezin as king;
{Look!} Jehovah will be bringing against them,
The waters of a great mighty river...
The king of Assyria and his glory.

⁷ 'He will come to your valleys,
Then walk right up to your walls,

⁸ And remove every man from Judea,
Who can still lift his head,
Or do anything at all, EmManuEl,
For his camp will cover your [land]!

⁹ 'Know this, O nations, and then be nailed shut!
Pay attention, all peoples to the ends of the earth...
Prepare to all be nailed shut!
And if you should ever grow strong again,
Once more, you will be nailed shut!

¹⁰ 'Then, no matter whom you ask for ideas,
Jehovah will wipe them away.
And no matter what you say you will do,

It won't happen, because Jehovah's [against] you!

¹¹ 'For this is what Jehovah has said:
*These people resist [My] persuasion,
About the ways they should go.
And they say, ¹² What You've told us is too hard [to do]!*

*'Yet, whatever they say is too hard to do,
Is nothing to be feared or disturbing.*

¹³ *Just treat Jehovah of Armies as holy,
And then, let Him be your fear...*

¹⁴ *Yield to Him and He'll be your Most Holy,
And upon no stones, will you stumble,
Nor will any rocks make you fall!*

*'But the house of Jacob is [now] in the trap,
Of those lying in wait in the valleys.*

¹⁵ *Many of their people are already weak,
So they're ready to fall and be broken.
Then [those troops] will approach and carry off men,
From where they once lived securely!*

¹⁶ *'Then, it will be easy to see,
Which ones were [chosen and] sealed
And which ones wouldn't [follow] the Law.*

¹⁷ *For, one will say, I'll wait on The God,
From whom Jacob's house turned its face,
And in Him I'll put all my trust...*

¹⁸ {Look} *The children God gave me and I.
Then among the house of IsraEl, they'll serve,
As the miracles and signs of Jehovah of Armies...
The One who dwells on Mount Zion.*

¹⁹ *'And if, at that time, they should tell you,
To seek those who interpret the omens,
That are sent by those who speak from the ground,
Or those who speak empty words from their guts,
[You should say this to them]:
Shouldn't a nation first ask of its God?'*

*'Why ask the dead on behalf of the living?
²⁰ For He gave us His Law as our helper;
So we shouldn't be turning to those that can't help!*

²¹ *'This is why a great famine is coming to you.
Then, when you're hungry and worried,
And speak wickedly of your fathers and kings;
You will look to the sky up above you,
²² And to the ground underneath you,
Then you'll see darkness, distress, and hard times...*

A darkness that will last a long time.

Chapter 9

¹ 'Drink this first and fast... do it quickly,
O lands of ZebuLun and NaphTali...
You coasts and those on the Jordan's east shore,
And you, O Galilee of the gentiles!

² 'The people who were traveling in darkness,
Then saw a [very] bright light.
For a light will then shine upon those,
Who live in the place of the shadow of death.

³ 'He'll lead most of the people toward gladness,
And they'll be as happy before him,
As those who take joy in a harvest,
Or those dividing up loot;

⁴ Since the yoke that they wore will be gone,
As will be the whip on their backs.

'He'll destroy the [whip] of those who deployed it,
As he did in the days of Midian's war.

⁵ And they'll have to pay for each piece of clothes,
Which they, through treachery, have won;
For the people will [demand] the return of their clothes...
Even if they've been scorched!

⁶ 'But to us, a child has been born,
And to us, a son has been given,
Upon whose shoulders the kingship will come.
And the names by which he'll be called:
The Angel of Great Understanding;
The Wonderful Councilor and Mighty God;
The Powerful One and Prince of Peace;
And the Father of the Age that is Coming.'

'Then upon this prince, I'll bring peace and health,

⁷ His rule from David's throne will be great,
And there'll be no end to his peace.

'His kingdom will be founded on justice and judgment,
Both now and into the age...
Which will come through the zeal of Jehovah of Armies.

⁸ 'But to IsraEl and Jacob, Jehovah sends death.

⁹ And all the peoples of Ephraim
(Those with haughty and insolent hearts,
Who within Samaria, have settled),
Will realize this and then say:

¹⁰ *All the bricks have now fallen,*

*So, come and help us shape stones;
Then we'll cut down some cedars and sycamore trees,
And we'll build ourselves a great tower.'*

¹¹ But, God will knock down all those,
Who come against Zion and Him.
He'll wipe all His enemies away...

¹² The Syrians from where the sun dawns,
To the Greeks in the place where it sets...
Those swallowing IsraEl down with their mouths.
And even this will not end His rage;
For His hand will still be held high.

¹³ Because His people refused to repent
Or to search for Jehovah of Armies,
Until [the day] they were struck;

¹⁴ The Lord will remove the head and the tail...
All of IsraEl's great and small in one day.

¹⁵ The head is the elders and highly regarded;
And the prophets who teach lawless ways, are the tail.

¹⁶ They're the ones who say, 'These people are blest,'
But, just mislead them to swallow them down.

¹⁷ And because of these things;
God won't show favor upon their young men,
Nor show mercy on their orphans or widows...
Because they're all lawless and wicked,
And every mouth is unrighteous.
Yet, none of these things will turn back His rage,
For His hand will still be raised high.

¹⁸ Then the lawless will be burned as in fire...
They'll be devoured like flames through dry grass...
They'll be burned like thickets in the woods,
And consumed like the hay in the hills.

¹⁹ Because of Jehovah's anger and rage,
The entire land will be burned,
And its people will be as those burned in a fire;
For a man won't show mercy to even his brother.

²⁰ Then they'll look at their right hands in hunger,
And they will eat their left [arms].
But the flesh of their arms will not fill them.

²¹ ManasSeh will consume Ephraim,
And Ephraim will then eat ManasSeh...
And together, they'll come against Judah.
Yet, none of these things will turn back [God's] rage,
For His hand will still be held high.

Chapter 10

¹ 'Woe to those who write wicked [laws];
For the reasons that they write them are wicked...

² To deny equal rights to the poor,
And to snatch away justice from the needy...
Widows they ravage, and orphans they loot!

³ 'So, what will you do in the day of inspection?
Yes, when hard times come from afar,
Where will you run to for aid,
And to whom will you give all your wealth,

⁴ So you won't be forced to be slaves?

'Should you fall under those who are being destroyed,
This won't be the end of His rage,
For His hand will still be held high.

⁵ 'Woe to Assyria (the rod of My wrath)...
Those who hold My rage in their hands.

⁶ For, to that lawless nation, I'll also send rage...
I'll order My people to plunder and loot,
Then trample their cities and turn them to dust.

⁷ 'But about this, they aren't thinking now,
And their souls have failed to consider...
[No, Assyria's king] doesn't know this,
Since his goal is to destroy many nations.

⁸ 'He'll ask, *Am I not your sole ruler?*

⁹ *Isn't all above Babylon mine,
As well as Calneh where the tower was built?*

*'Have I not taken Arabia,
As well as Samaria and Damascus?*

¹⁰ *So, in the same way that I've taken all these,
I will conquer the rest!*

'So shriek, O carvings in JeruSalem;

¹¹ For, as I did to Samaria and her idols
(Those things that they made with their hands),
I'll also do to JeruSalem,
And to all of her idols!

¹² 'But, when the Lord completes all these things,
Which He'll do to JeruSalem and Zion;
He'll arise and strike that great mind...
Yes, the mind of Assyria's ruler,
And the haughty glory of his eyes.

¹³ 'For, [this great ruler] has said:
I will act in a very strong way.

*And in my wisdom and great understanding,
I'll remove the boundaries of nations...
I'll bring an end to their powers.*

*¹⁴ 'I'll shake the cities in which they all live,
And grab hold of the people who live there,
The same as I'd take a nest in My hands;
And then, I'll deport the survivors.*

*'No, none will evade or contradict me;
They'll just open their mouths and let out a chirp.*

*¹⁵ 'Would the axe have any glory,
Unless there was someone to swing it?
Would the saw have any value,
Unless there was someone to draw it;
And can a rod lift itself?*

*¹⁶ 'So, dishonor will replace all your honor...
And this will be done by Jehovah of Armies.
To your glory, He will send fire,
And you'll be consumed by its flames...*

¹⁷ Then this fire will serve as IsraEl's light.

*'Yes, He'll make her holy through fire,
Which will eat her like grass in the woods in that day.*

*¹⁸ It will burn the mountains, forests, and hills,
And devour all the life from the flesh.*

'Then, those who flee will be running from flames,

*¹⁹ And very few will remain;
Why, an infant could write down their numbers!*

*²⁰ 'In that day;
Those who remain in JeruSalem,
Won't go along [with what's bad] anymore.
Those of Jacob who then will be saved,
Will not yield to those who have wronged them;
Rather, they'll be yielding to God,
And the truths of IsraEl's Most Holy One.*

*²¹ 'Then those of Jacob who still remain,
Will return to their Almighty God.*

*²² And the people of IsraEl will then grow to be,
As many as the sands of the seas,
From the very few that survived.*

*²³ 'So this matter will be finished in justice,
For Jehovah is drawing the line.
Yes, Jehovah of Armies will act,
Throughout the world [of mankind].*

²⁴ 'For this reason, Jehovah of Armies has said:
*Don't fear the Assyrians, My people...
Yes, you who are dwelling in Zion.
Though they will strike with a rod,
And bring distress as they're [marching] toward Egypt;*
²⁵ *In a short time, My anger will end,
And toward their plans, My rage will then turn.*

²⁶ 'The God of Armies, Jehovah, will stand,
And bring calamity upon them,
As He did to Midian in the Place of Oppression.

'And His rage [will be expressed] by the sea,
As they are traveling toward Egypt.

²⁷ Their terrible yoke, He'll lift from your shoulders,
And then they will all be destroyed.

²⁸ 'They'll enter the City of AngAi,
But they will bypass MegidDo,
And drop their weapons at MichMash.

²⁹ 'They'll [go through] the valley and enter AngAi;
As those in Rama will be gripped by fear,
And the whole city of Saul will then flee.

³⁰ 'At that time, O daughter of GalLim;
Your voice will sound just like snorting.
And be careful [O you] at LachIsh...
And AnathOth, you must be wary.

³¹ 'There'll be fear in Gebim and MadMenah...

³² To survive, you should all band together,
As [Assyria] is marching your way!

'O daughter of Zion;
You must flee to the mountains,
And gather upon JeruSalem's hills!

³³ O Lord, Jehovah of Armies;
How Your strength has scattered the famous,
And broken the insolence of the haughty,
To teach them the need to be humble!

³⁴ For the haughty will all be cut down with swords,
And Lebanon will fall with the rest of the proud!

Chapter 11

¹ From the root of Jesse, a [shoot] will then sprout,
And a flower will grow from his root.

² The Spirit of Jehovah will rest upon him...
The spirit of understanding and wisdom...
The spirit of strength and of purpose...

The spirit of knowledge and reverence.

³ The Spirit will fill him with fear of The God,
And he won't judge men by their wealth,
Nor scold them for the things that they say.

⁴ He'll judge the case of the lowly,
And [give justice to] the poor of the land.

He'll strike the earth with the words from his mouth;
And with the breath from his lips,
He'll wipe the godless away.

⁵ Justice will be tied 'round his waist,
And his sides will be girdled with truth.

⁶ Then the wolf and the lamb, together will feed;
The leopard will nap with the kid;
Bulls, calves, and lions will all graze together,
And by a small child, they'll be led.

⁷ Together, the ox and the bear will eat grass...
Together, their young ones [will play];
And the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ On the burrow of an asp, an infant will play,
And he'll put his hands in the bed of young [cobras].

⁹ For, they will not do any harm,
And on My holy mount, none will destroy,
Since the earth will be filled with the knowledge of [God],
As the seas are covered by water.

¹⁰ In that day, the root of JesSe [will sprout]...
He'll arise to rule [all] the nations.
In him, the nations will trust,
And upon him, honor will rest.

¹¹ In that day, God will show the zeal of His hands,
On behalf of the few who remain...
The remnants returning from Assyria and Egypt,
Babylon, Ethiopia, and Elam...
Those who return from the sunrise,
And from the lands of the Arabs.

¹² For He'll raise a sign to the nations,
And collect IsraElites who were being destroyed...
He'll gather the scattered of Judah,
From the four [corners] of the earth.

¹³ He'll remove Ephraim's envy,
And Judah's enemies will all be destroyed.
Then Ephraim won't be jealous of Judah,
Nor will Judah oppress them again.

¹⁴ Then, they will all get together,
To [attack] the Philistines who live in the west,
And to plunder Edomites toward the sunrise.
Moab will be conquered first,
But Ammon's sons are the first to submit.

¹⁵ Then the Lord will [split] Egypt's [Red] Sea,
And He'll lay His hand on their River,...
He'll send gales to its seven ravines,
So it can be walked on in sandals.

¹⁶ 'Then, it will serve as a road for My people...
A path for those left behind,
And for those who remain in Assyria.
Then for IsraEl, it'll be like day,
That they came out of Egypt.'

Chapter 12

¹ And in that day, they will say:
'O Jehovah, we praise You!
For, though You were angry with us,
Your rage has now turned away,
And You have shown mercy upon us.

² 'Look... my God and my Savior!
I'll do what He says and not be afraid!
For, Jehovah's my glory and praise,
And He's become my salvation.'

³ Then water will be drawn from life-saving springs,

⁴ And in that day, you will say:
'Sing in praise to Jehovah!
Yell about His great Name!
To the nations, announce His honorable deeds!
Say that His Name has been raised!

⁵ 'Sing in praise to the Name of the Lord,
For all the great things He's done,
And announce these things throughout the whole earth!

⁶ 'Shout aloud and be joyful,
All who you are living in Zion;
For, IsraEl's Most Holy One
Has now been raised in her midst!'

Chapter 13

¹ **This is the vision that IsaiAh (the son of Amoz) saw against Babylon.**

² Raise a flag on the tops of the mountains,
Then don't be afraid, shout it loudly.

Open [your mouths], O you rulers...
Put your hands [to your mouths] and call out for aid!

³ For I'm in command and I've given the order,
To giants who are coming to fulfill My rage...
Together they're coming, shouting insults.

⁴ There's a voice like the sound of great crowds,
That [you'll hear from the tops of] the mountains.
It's the sound of a gathering of kings,
And a great assembly of troops.

For Jehovah of Armies has given the order,
To a nation of warriors with weapons,
⁵ Which are coming from a far away land...
From the pillars of the skies they'll arrive.
Yes, the Lord and His warriors are coming,
To bring ruin to the place where you dwell.

⁶ So shriek, for the day of the Lord has arrived,
And destruction from God will come quickly!

⁷ So, all of their hands will go limp,
And the soul of each man will know fear.

⁸ Their elders will all be disturbed,
And have pains like women about to give birth.
They'll commiserate with each other,
And together, they'll all be in shock...
Their faces will be changed into flames!

⁹ For {Look!} the day of the Lord is about to arrive.
It's a day of incurable anger...
The rage to destroy the place where you live,
And to wipe out the sinners.

¹⁰ Then the stars in the sky (including Orion),
And the heaven's arrangement will no longer shine.
The rising sun will be darkened,
And the moon won't give out its light.

¹¹ I'll punish this world for its evil,
And the irreverent, I'll destroy for their sins...
I'll destroy the insolence of the lawless,
And bring the haughty ways of the proud to the ground.

¹² Then, those left behind will be rarer than gold...
They'll be rarer than the gold of Ophir.

¹³ For the skies will then be enraged,
And the foundations of the earth will be shaken,
By the anger and rage of Jehovah of Armies,
On the day that He sends His wrath.

¹⁴ 'Then, those who remain will flee like the deer...
Like sheep, they will all run away.
No way will a man return to his home...
Yes, they all will run from their homes.

¹⁵ 'The captured will then all be [slaughtered]...
Yes, those who are caught will fall by the sword.

¹⁶ Before them, their young will be dashed to the ground,
All their homes will be ruined,
And their women will all be dishonored.

¹⁷ '{Look!}' For against you, I'm arousing the Medes...
Those who think nothing of silver,
And have no need for your gold!

¹⁸ 'They'll break the bows of your young men,
And on your young, they will not mercy...
Their eyes will not spare your children!

¹⁹ 'Then Babylon (the home of Chaldea's king),
Will be wiped away by our God,
As He did to Sodom and GomorRah.

²⁰ 'Then, through the ages, no one will live there,
And for generations, no one will go there.
No Arabs will go there, and shepherds won't stop there to rest.

²¹ But wild beasts will indeed be found there,
And fill all its houses with growling.

'It'll be a place where demons will dance...

²² A place where vultures will dwell,
And where hedgehogs build nests in the homes.

Chapter 14

¹ 'This will all happen quickly...
It won't take very much time,
And the days ['til its end] won't drag on.

'But, [God] will show mercy on Jacob
(IsraEl will still be His chosen),
And they will find rest in their land.

'To them, foreign peoples will come
(To the house of Jacob, they'll come),

² And they'll accept the gentiles among them...
As an inheritance, they will then be welcomed.

'At that time, within the land of our God,
There'll be many male and female servants.
For, those who once took them captive,
Will, in turn, be their [slaves]...
They'll dominate those who once ruled them.'

³ The Lord will send you rest in that day...
An end to your anger and grief,
And to the hard labor in which you once slaved.

⁴ Then you'll take up this wail against Babylon's king...
Yes, you will say this in that day:
'O how much rest [we now can enjoy],
From this one who demanded so much...
How much rest [we now have from] our masters.

⁵ 'For Jehovah has broken the yoke of those sinners,
As well as the yoke of their rulers.

⁶ In His rage, He struck down a nation...
He brought calamity upon them...
He spared none and He didn't hold back!

⁷ So, now the whole earth is shouting in joy!

⁸ The trees of Lebanon are happy and say:
'From the time that you were laid low,
No one has come here to cut us!'

⁹ And the grave will meet you, from down below;
For, all the giants who once ruled the earth,
Will have gathered to stand and oppose you.

The kings of those nations will rise from their thrones,

¹⁰ And then, to you, they will say:
'Have you now been captured as we were,
And are you considered to be one of us?'

¹¹ Your glories and joys have gone down to the grave,
And beneath you, they'll make a bed of decay,
Where you will be covered with worms!

¹² O how the bright one has fallen out of the sky
(The [star] that arises at dawn);
For this one who [once conquered] nations,
Has been broken down to the ground.

(Note: This text could also be rendered: 'O how you have fallen from the sky; howl, O one that arises at dawn; for, you who [once conquered] nations, have now been broken to the ground').

¹³ You're the one who once said in his heart:
'I will ascend to the heavens,
And put my throne above all the stars.
On a high mountain, I'll sit...
On the highest mountain there in the north,

¹⁴ Where I'll sit above all the clouds,
And like the Most High, I will be!'

¹⁵ But now, you'll go down to the grave...
To the foundations of the earth.

¹⁶ Then, those who see you will wonder and ask:
'Isn't he the one who provoked the whole earth...
Isn't he the one who shook kings...

¹⁷ Isn't he the one who brought desolation,
Upon mankind's habitation...
The one who demolished its cities,
And the one who set no slaves free?'

¹⁸ So, while all the kings of the nations,
Will go to sleep in full honor
(As will every man within his own house);
¹⁹ You'll be tossed in the mountains along with the slain.

Yes, you'll be abhorred the same as the rest
Who have been stabbed through with swords,
And gone down to the place of the dead.

²⁰ 'Like clothes that are befouled by blood,
You won't be pure or clean anymore;
For upon My land, you brought destruction,
And you murdered My people.
So, no way will you last through the age,
O you seed of all that is evil.

²¹ 'Prepare your young to be slaughtered,
Because of the sins of their fathers!
So, they won't arise and inherit the land,
Nor again fill the whole earth with wars!

²² 'For, I will rise up against them,'
Says Jehovah of Armies;
'I'll destroy their names, their remains, and their seed.'

And Jehovah said:

²³ 'The land of Babylon, I will destroy...
I'll make it a place where hedgehogs will dwell.
It will then become nothing...
It'll be just a pit of destruction.'

²⁴ Then Jehovah of Armies said:
'This is how it will happen...
Yes, this is the way it will be;
For this is what I have decided:

'[Babylon] will be allowed to remain,
²⁵ So it can wipe the Assyrians away,
From My land and My Holy Mountain.
They'll be trampled and their yoke will then be removed,
As their dignity is cut from their shoulders.'

²⁶ This is the plan that Jehovah laid out,
For the rest of mankind's habitation,

As His hand is raised over the nations.

²⁷ For, who can erase the Holy One's plans,
Or hold back His hand when it's raised?

²⁸ **In the year that King Ahaz died, these words came [to IsaiAh]:**

²⁹ 'O Philistines, do not be joyful,
For He's breaking the yoke of those who'd attack.
And from the snake's seed, young asps will arrive,
Which will then become flying serpents.

³⁰ 'While God will feed all the poor,
And peace will rest on the paupers;
Your seed will starve and be wiped away...
Yes, those who remain will be gone.

³¹ 'So shriek, O you city of gates,
And may your towns cry aloud!
For the Philistines will all be disturbed,
As in the north, smoke will be rising,
And none will be left there alive.

'Now, what answer can the kings of the nations supply?
For the foundations of Zion were laid by the Lord,
And He'll bring salvation to His people!'

Chapter 15

¹ **This is the word against Moab:**

Moab's land will be wiped away in one night...
Its walls will be broken during the night.

² In Dibon, your altars will all be destroyed,
And thereafter, you'll go there to weep.

In Moab, you'll be shrieking on Nebo;
For, every head will be shaved,
And you'll be wearing chains on your arms.

³ In your squares, you'll be wearing sackcloth,
And under your roofs, there'll be mourning;
For, you will be shrieking and crying,
In your squares and on all of your streets!

⁴ In HeshBon, there will be much shouting,
As there'll also be in EliAleh...
As far as JaHaz, the sounds will be heard.

In Moab's land, the mothers will cry;
For, in their souls, they will know...

⁵ In their hearts, they'll know there'll be screaming,
All the way to ZoAr.

They'll then be like three-year-old heifers,

[That are being led to the slaughter];
For there'll be much weeping in LuHith,
And yelling on the road to HoroNaim...
Where they'll tremble before they're defeated!

⁶ At NimRim, the waters will dry,
So her crops will fail and there'll be no green grass;
⁷ Then, how can they bring her salvation?
For I'll bring the Arabs into her valleys,
And everyone there will be captured.

⁸ There will be screaming and shrieking,
From the lands of Moab and EglaiM...
There will be screams at their wells,
⁹ For Dimon's waters will be filled with blood.

Against Dimon, I'm bringing the Arabs,
And they will remove Moab's seed...
The survivors in AriEl and Adama.

Chapter 16

¹ I'll send a male lamb to be lord of the land;
For, Mount Zion's daughter is not just bare rock.
² Then you, O daughter of Moab,
Will become like a bird that flies all about,
After her young have been carried away!

O Arnon, sit down and discuss it,
³ And prepare for continuous mourning;
For at noon, there will be darkness,
And [your people] will be startled and flee.

So, do not start celebrating;
⁴ For with you, Moab's exiles will run,
From the faces of those who pursue you.
Then they will be your only protectors,
Since your allies will all have been lifted away,
And your ruler will perish and be crushed to the ground.

⁵ Then, from a throne [based upon] mercy,
[This lamb] will make all things right.
For, one from David's tent will sit [on his throne],
From which he will judge righteously,
And in truth, he will also inquire...
Then swift justice, he'll bring [to the land].

⁶ We have heard the insults of Moab,
And they have been very insulting.
[We've noticed] his pride, his insults, and rage...
And there was no reason for this.

⁷ So, there will be shrieking in Moab...
Throughout the land, there'll be screams.
But you'll think of those who were dwelling in Seth,
And then you'll feel less ashamed.

⁸ In the plains of HeshBon, they'll mourn,
Over the grapevines of SibMah;
For the nations will swallow them down.
And all the way to JaZer,
They will trample your vines.

Then, no way will you get back together;
But, through the desert, you'll wander!
Those whom she sent away will be lost,
As will those who were carried over the sea.

⁹ And I will cry over this,
As will [the people] of JaZer,
Who are weeping for the grapevines of SibMah.

O HeshBon and EliAleh;
Your trees will all be cut down,
And I'll trample your harvests and crops...
Yes, all of these things will soon fail!

¹⁰ Then in your vineyards, there'll be no leaping for joy,
Since the reasons for joy will be gone.
And none will be treading your wine vats,
For the [growing of grapes] will have ceased.

¹¹ Then my belly will sound like a harp over Moab,
And I'll [groan for her cities of bricks].

¹² This should cause them all to feel shame;
For Moab's grown weak in her shrines
([In those places] where she goes to pray,
Before the things that she made with her hands,
Which were unable to save her)...

¹³ This is what Jehovah proclaimed against Moab.

¹⁴ Then the Lord spoke again and said this:
'In just three years
(In the length of someone's employment),
Moab will meet with dishonor...
All of her wealth [will be gone],
And just a few peasants will live there.'

Chapter 17

¹ **This is the word against Damascus.**

'{Look!} Damascus will be lifted away,
From among the rest of the cities;

Yes, it will [soon] meet its downfall.

² 'Then, through ages, it'll serve as a bed...
A resting place and safe haven for flocks.

³ No more will it be a fortified place
(A place of Ephraim's refuge);
For there'll be no kingdom in Damascus,
And Syrians will no longer live there.

'But, it will be better for you,
Than for IsraEl's sons and their glory,'
Says Jehovah of Armies.

⁴ 'For the glory of Jacob will end in that day...
His bountiful glory will be shaken.

⁵ 'It'll be the same as a harvest,
Where someone reaps grain in a valley of rocks.

⁶ For, all that remains will be stubble...
Just two or three olive pits,
On the tops of tall trees,
Where four or five branches remain.'

This is what The God of IsraEl has said:

⁷ 'In that day, all the people will have to rely,
On the One by whom they were made...
To the Holy One of IsraEl,
All their eyes should then turn.

⁸ 'They shouldn't rely on their shrines,
Or on things that they've made with their hands.
In that day, they'll not look to their trees,
Or to the disgusting things [that they've made].

⁹ 'For your cities will all be abandoned,
Like the cities of the Amorites and Hivites,
Before the faces of IsraEl's sons.

'Desolate places, they will become,
¹⁰ For you've forsaken your Savior, God...
Yes, you have forgotten your God!

'Then when you're planting, you'll do so unsurely,
For, you'll be unsure of your seeds...

¹¹ And of the right day to plant, you'll be misled.
So, though you may sow in the morning,
Your seeds will still rot before harvest.

'So the fathers of men must then choose by lot,
Which one of their sons they will [feed].

¹² 'And woe to you, many nations;
For, you will also be shaken...

You'll be disturbed like the sea [in a storm],
¹³ And by raging floods, you'll be carried away.

'I'll scold them all and then they will flee...
Yes, I'll chase them a very long way,
And they'll be like the dust on the mountains,
Which is [blown] by the winds,
Or like clouds of dust raised by wheels.

¹⁴ 'In the evening, there will be mourning;
And before the dawn, they'll no longer be.'

This is the lot of those who've brought ruin to us...
It's the inheritance of those who've inherited us.

Chapter 18

¹ 'Woe to you, O land of winged boats,
Beyond Ethiopia's rivers...

² Those sending paper treaties and letters,
Across the water [to us].

'For, from a nation that will then be raised,
Angels of light will be sent,
To a people who are strange and ill-tempered.

'Who is [this uplifted nation]?
It's one by whom you don't want to be trampled.

³ It's a land where they live by the river,
And their place will [soon] be a flag
That is lifted above the tall mountains...
Like the signal of the blowing of trumpets.'

⁴ This is what I was told by the Lord.

'Though My city is protected from hot afternoons,
And by clouds of dew before harvest;

⁵ When the flowers have bloomed and the young grapes have formed,
I'll remove their clusters with a sickle,
And cut the small branches off of the vines,

⁶ Then leave them behind for the birds of the skies,
And for the wild beasts of the earth.

'So, all the winged creatures that fly in the skies,
And all the wild beasts of the ground,
Will gather there to consume them.

⁷ 'Then they'll offer gifts to Jehovah of Armies...

Those who've been afflicted and plucked,
But, who had been great [through] the ages...

A nation that's been trampled down,
But in whom some hope still remains,
There by the river where they live...

A place where the Name, *Jehovah of Armies*,
Can be found on His Holy Mountain.'

Chapter 19

¹ **This is the vision against Egypt.**

{Look!} Jehovah arrived upon a swift cloud,
And down to Egypt, He went.
There He'll shake the idols that they've made with their hands
(Those that stand in front of His face),
And their hearts will then be pierced through.

² Egyptians will [war] with Egyptians...
Against brothers and neighbors, they'll fight.
City will rise against city,
And house [will rise] against house.

³ The Egyptian's spirits will all be disturbed,
And He will wipe out their plans.
Then they'll ask their statues, their prophets and gods,
And those who speak from the ground.

⁴ But, over the Egyptians, He will assign,
Those who'll make them work hard;
And difficult kings, He'll appoint over them.

For Jehovah of Armies said this:

⁵ 'Egyptians will then drink sea water,
Because their rivers will dry up and fail...

⁶ Their aqueducts and their rivers will fail,
And all their water will dry.

⁷ 'Then the papyrus marshes and reeds,
As well as what's green by the rivers
(including the crops that are planted thereby),
Will dry up and be blown away by the wind.

⁸ 'Then, all who go fishing with hooks,
And all who go fishing with dragnets,
And those who cast nets in the rivers,
Will [have reasons for] moaning and mourning.

⁹ 'Those who shred flax and weave linen,

¹⁰ Will also be grieved and ashamed.

And there'll be great concern among those who brew beer,
As the lives of all become painful.

¹¹ 'Then, fools will be appointed their rulers;
And those who speak stupid things,
Will be the king's councilors in Tanis.

'For, they will say to the king:

*We are the sons of wise men,
And [we were born] sons of kings!*

¹² 'But, where are all your wise men?
Let them come and explain,
What Jehovah of Armies has planned against Egypt.

¹³ 'Then the princes in Tanis will fail,
And the haughty rulers in Memphis,
Will cause Egypt and its tribes to wander.

¹⁴ For the Lord has concocted for them,
The spirit of addiction to delusions.
And this will cause Egypt to [stagger],
Like a drunk who goes outside to vomit.

¹⁵ 'Egypt won't know its head from its tail,
Or discern a beginning or end.

¹⁶ In that day, Egypt's men will be acting like women,
And before the hand of Jehovah, they'll shake.
Yes, He will cause this to happen.

¹⁷ 'Then the Egyptians will fear the Judeans...
They'll fear those who call themselves Jews;
For against them, Jehovah of Armies has plans.

¹⁸ 'In that day, in five cities of Egypt,
They'll speak the Canaanite tongue,
And swear oaths in the Name, Jehovah of Armies.
Then *the City of [the Sun]* will be given the name,
The City of the One [God].

¹⁹ 'Then there'll be an Altar to Jehovah in Egypt,
And a monument to the Lord at their border,
²⁰ Which will serve as a sign through the ages,
That to Jehovah, Egypt belongs.

'Then they'll call to [Him] when they are oppressed,
And He will send someone to save them...
He'll deliver them and bring justice.

²¹ 'So to Egyptians, Jehovah will be famous...
All Egypt will know the Lord in that day.
Sacrifices and gifts, they'll offer to Him...
They'll make vows to Jehovah and pay them.

²² 'For, after He brings bad things on Egypt,
He'll heal them and then they'll turn to the Lord...
He'll listen to them and He'll heal them!

²³ 'In that day, between Assyria and Egypt,
There will then be a road,
Where the Assyrians will travel to Egypt,

And to Assyria, Egyptians will go...
For Assyrians will then serve the Egyptians.

²⁴ 'In that day, along with Assyria and Egypt,
IsraEl will then be the third,
When it comes to their land being blest.

²⁵ 'For Jehovah of Armies will offer this blessing:
*Praise My people in Egypt,
As well as those in Assyria...
And My inheritance, those living in IsraEl.'*

Chapter 20

¹ In the year that Tartan entered AshDod (when he was sent by Sargon the king of the Assyrians to wage war against AshDod and captured it), ² the Lord spoke to IsaiAh (the son of Amoz) and said this:

'Take the sackcloth off of your loins,
And untie the sandals from your feet.'

And that's what IsaiAh did... he walked naked and barefoot!

³ And Jehovah said:
'As My servant IsaiAh walks naked and barefoot;
The same signs and miracles will be sent,
To Ethiopia and Egypt in the coming three years.

⁴ 'For the king of Assyria will lead you as captives
(Ethiopians and Egyptians, both young and old)
Naked and barefoot, to show Egypt's shame.

⁵ 'The Ethiopians who rely on Egyptians,
Will then be vanquished and shamed;
For their [only] glory was [Egypt].

⁶ 'And they'll say to those in the islands:
*{Look!} Though we thought we could run to you for protection,
You couldn't save us from Assyria's king...
And since even you couldn't save us,
How can we now be delivered?'*

Chapter 21

¹ **The Desert Vision.**

As a blast of wind in the desert
That goes through a land that is dry;
² I received a frightening hard vision,
Concerning those who have no regard...
Those who have no respect for the Law.

[I dreamed] that the Persians attacked me,
So I moaned and tried to comfort myself.

³ And because of this, my loins became weak,
As though I was going through birth pains.

Unrighteously, I chose not to hear,
And I rushed away so I wouldn't see.

⁴ For, in my heart I had strayed,
And in lawlessness, I had been wrapped.
Then my soul was bound up in fear.

⁵ Prepare the table to eat and to drink...
Awaken the rulers and pull out the shields!

⁶ For, this is what I was told by the Lord:
'You must go and stand as a watchman,
And then, announce what you see!'

⁷ Well, I saw two riders approaching; one [was riding] a burro, and the other [was riding] a camel. ⁸ [And then I was told that] I should listen for him and to call to UriAh from Jehovah's watch tower. So I stood there throughout that whole day, and I watched the camp all through that night. ⁹ And then look! I saw someone riding on a double chariot, and he was shouting that Babylon had fallen along with all of her idols... yes, all her idols had been dashed to the ground!

¹⁰ So listen, all you who remain,
And those of you who are grieving...
Hear what was said by Jehovah of Armies...
It's what IsraEl's God is announcing to you!

¹¹ **The vision of Edom.**

From SeIr, He called me and said:
'You must stand guard on the walls...

¹² Stand guard from morning 'til night...
Keep watch with Me and you'll live!

¹³ 'Then, you should bed down in the evening,
In the woods on the road to DeDan.

¹⁴ And bring some water for the thirsty you'll meet...
Those who are coming from Tema!

'Yes, bring some bread for the fleeing...

¹⁵ Because of those being slaughtered...
Because of all who must wander...
Because of those who are brandishing swords...
Because of those with tightly-stretched bows...
And because of all who have fallen in war!'

¹⁶ Then the Lord said this:

'In a year (as the year of someone who's hired),
The glory of Kedar will end,

¹⁷ And few will remain of their bowmen;
For, the Lord God of IsraEl has spoken.'

Chapter 22

¹ **The matter of the valley of Zion.**

'What has happened to you,
That made you foolishly climb on your roofs?

² 'Though your city is now filled with screaming,
Your slain were not killed by the broad sword,
And your people aren't dead because of a war.

³ 'But your rulers all fled [in fear of] the bow,
And now they're all tied up together...
Yes, your mighty have all run away.'

Well, because of this, I said: 'Now let me go and find someplace to cry... ⁴ and don't try to offer me any comfort over the destruction of the daughters of my people! ⁵ For this has been a very disturbing day... a day of trampling and destruction and a day of addiction to delusions, which has come to us from Jehovah of Armies.

'In the valleys of Zion, they wander...
All from the small to the great;
Yes, between the mountains, they wander.

⁶ 'For the Elamites have gathered [their arrows],
And their men have mounted their horses,
And gathered in battle array.

⁷ 'So with chariots, our pretty valleys are filled,
And horsemen have blocked all our gates.

⁸ In that day, they'll reveal Judah's gates,
And survey the city's best homes.

⁹ In the houses of David, they'll search,
And they'll see how much can be found there.

¹⁰ 'But you'll divert the water to the city's ancient pool,
And demolish the outsides of your homes,
To fortify JeruSalem's walls.

¹¹ 'Between the two walls, you'll bring water,
And send it inside to that ancient pool.
But to the One who made it, you'll fail to look...
To its Creator, you will not turn.

¹² 'So Jehovah of Armies calls for tears in that day...
For the beating of chests and the shaving [of heads],
And for the wearing of sackcloth.

¹³ But, they were all happy and leaping for joy...
Slaughtering calves and offering sheep,
Then eating the meat and drinking their wine,
And saying, 'Let's eat and drink, for tomorrow we'll die!'

¹⁴ Why, all of these [bad things] have reached all the way to the ears of Jehovah of

Armies... and such sins will not be forgiven until the day that they die!

¹⁵ So Jehovah of Armies said this:

'Now, go and enter My [Holy Place]...
Go to the store-keeper ShevNa and ask,

¹⁶ *What are you doing here...
What [business] have you been conducting?
Why did you carve a memorial for yourself...
Why have you made an engraving,
And depicted yourself in this Temple's stones?*

¹⁷ *'{Look!} Jehovah of Armies will now throw you out...
He'll wipe away such a man!
Your [official] clothes, He'll remove,
Along with your garland of honor!*

¹⁸ *'Then He'll throw you into a dungeon,
And that is where you will die!
On your chariot, He will bring dishonor,
And He'll trample the homes of your princes...
¹⁹ [He'll] remove your position and station!*

²⁰ *'In that day, I will call to My servant
(EliAkim the son of HelkiAh),*

²¹ *And I'll put your garments on him...
Yes, I will give him your garland...
Your duties, I'll put in his hands...
And then he'll become like a father,
To those in Judah and JeruSalem.*

²² *'Then, around his shoulders I'll put,
The key to the palace of David...
And he'll be the one who'll unlock it!*

*'To him, I'll give the glory of David...
He'll rule and none will dispute this.*

²³ *'Then I'll make him the ruler of a place that's secure,
And he'll sit on a glorious throne,
There in the house of his father.*

²⁴ *'And the honorable ones of his father's house
(From the least to the greatest),
Will then rely upon him...
Yes, all the small vessels and cups,
Will depend on him in that day.'*

²⁵ Jehovah of Armies also said this:

'This man will now be removed,
And another will then be entrenched,
Within that trustworthy place.

'He'll be removed and he'll fall,

And all of his glory will just waste away;
For Jehovah [of Armies] has spoken!

Chapter 23

¹ **The matter of Tyre.**

Shriek, you on boats out of Carthage;
For [Tyre] has now been destroyed,
And they won't be [sailing] from Cyprus again,
Since [the people of Tyre] are all captives!

² To whom can I liken their [people]...
To Phoenician traders who pass through the seas,
³ Or to the seed of the traders,
Who transport the harvests of nations.

⁴ 'And you, O Sidon, be shamed,' said the sea!
Then the power of the sea told them this:
'I've not had pains and I've not given birth,
Nor have I fed young or raised virgins.

⁵ But when Egypt hears what has happened to Tyre,
They'll be overtaken by grief.'

⁶ So, go on to Carthage and shriek,
All you who live on the islands!

⁷ For, she was the source of your insolent ways...
Back before she had fallen.

⁸ Who was it that planned these things against Tyre...
Isn't she the best and the strongest?
For her merchants were the glorious rulers of nations!

⁹ It was Jehovah of Armies who laid out the plans,
To bring an end the insolence
Of these glorious ones...
To dishonor the glories of the whole earth!

¹⁰ So now you'll be forced to be farmers,
Since boats won't [be sailing] from Carthage,

¹¹ And your hands won't control the seas anymore,
O you provokers of kings.

It was Jehovah of Armies,
Who ordered the destruction of Canaan's strength...

¹² So, no more may you keep on insulting,
And wronging the daughter of Zion.

Then, if you should travel to Cyprus,
You will not find any rest there.

¹³ And if you should go to Chaldea,
You won't find rest, for her walls will soon fall...
The Assyrians will come and destroy it.

¹⁴ So Shriek, you on boats out of Carthage,
Because, your forts will soon be destroyed!

¹⁵ This is how it will be in that day:
Tyre will remain in that state,
For the next seventy years...
The length of the lives of both men and kings.
Then, after the seventy years,
Tyre will become like the song of a whore.

¹⁶ So, pick up your harp and wander away,
O great whore that will be forgotten!
Play your harp and sing very well,
So there'll be someone who remembers!

¹⁷ Then, after those seventy years,
God will revisit Tyre,
And restore her as she once was...
She'll be a market for all kingdoms once more,
Throughout man's home on the face of the earth.

¹⁸ Then her trading will pay a holy wage to the Lord;
For their [profits] won't be carried to them...
[They'll be sent] to those who dwell before [God]...
All [the wealth of] her trading [will then go to them],
Which they'll use to eat and drink 'til they're full,
As a compact memorial before God.

Chapter 24

¹ {Look!} The Lord will lay waste to the place where you live...
He will totally destroy it,
Then, He will uncover its face
And scatter those living within it.

² Then the [common] people will be like priests,
And servants will then be the masters.
The handmaids will then be the ladies;
Those who buy will be those who sell;
Those who borrow will be lenders,
And those who owe will be the ones owed.

³ 'With corruption, your land will be wasted,
And by looting, your place will be plundered!'
(Yes these things were said by the mouth of the Lord).

⁴ 'And then the land will start mourning;
For the system of things will be ruined.

'Then the land's most important will mourn

⁵ For [that place] that is thought of as lawless...
They'll wail for the people who live there...

Those who have broken [God's] Laws...
For they've wiped away and traded away,
The Sacred Agreement of the ages!

⁶ 'This curse will then devour [your] land,
For those who live there have sinned!
Then, only the poor will be left in the land...
Just a few men will remain.

⁷ 'So the wine will mourn and the grapevines will moan,
Over the souls of all those,
To whom they once brought great joy.

⁸ 'Happy sounds of tambourines will have ceased,
And those pleased with themselves will be gone,
Along with the wealth of the godless...
Who'll no longer hear the sounds of the harp.

⁹ 'And because they'll be shamed, they won't drink the wine...
The liquor will be bitter to even the drunks!

¹⁰ 'Your cities will then become empty,
And the houses will all be locked up;
Thus, none will be able to enter.

¹¹ 'So, shriek for the wine everywhere,
Since the joy of the land will have ceased...
Yes, it will just go away,

¹² And what will be left behind,
Is desolate cities and just empty homes,
Which will then all waste away.

¹³ Yes, all these things will come to that land,
There in the midst of the nations.

'In the same way that you would glean olives,
Is how such ones will be gleaned...
As though the harvest of crops will have ceased.

¹⁴ 'So, they will cry in loud voices...
But those who remain in the land,
Will rejoice, to the glory of God.

'Then the waters of the seas will be shaken,
¹⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be [seen],
On all the islands throughout the sea...
And the Name of the Lord will be honored.

¹⁶ '[For all the peoples will say]:
O God of IsraEl, Jehovah;
Of [Your] miracles, we've heard, throughout the whole earth,
And there's hope for those who respect You.

'And once again, they will say,

*Woe to those who've annulled...
Yes, those who've ignored the Laws [of our God];
¹⁷ Since, fear, the pit, and a snare are on all,
Who once dwelled in that land.
¹⁸ For those fleeing in fear fell into the pit,
And those climbing out were captured in snares.*

'Then the windows of the heavens will open,
And the foundations of the earth will be shaken.
¹⁹ Disturbance will come to the ground,
And perplexity will grip the whole land.

²⁰ 'It will be shaken and tipped,
As [a horn] that's filled with the fruits of the earth...
Yes, it will topple and fall,
Like someone who's dizzy and drunk,
Never to get up again;
For, that's [the land] where the lawless grew strong.

²¹ 'God will raise His hand in that day,
Against the arrangement of the heavens,
And against the kings of the earth.

²² They'll be gathered as one congregation,
And in castle dungeons, be locked,
Where they'll stay through many generations.

²³ 'Then the bricks will melt and the walls will all fall;
The moon will be sad and the sun will be shamed;
For the Lord will start reigning in JeruSalem...
And before Zion's elders, he'll be glorified.'

Chapter 25

¹ O Jehovah, my God, I'll glorify You,
And to Your Name, I'll sing praises,
Because of the wonderful things You have done,
And because [Your] ancient council proved true... amen!

² The towns have been turned into rubble,
As have the mighty foundations of cities...
And these cities of the godless won't be rebuilt,
Throughout the rest of the age.

³ Because of this, I offer You praise...
With the poor and the wronged, I praise You!

⁴ For, to the cities of the meek, You brought aid,
And You've rescued all the depressed...
Those whom You saved from the wicked.

To the thirsty, You are a protector,
And an inviting breeze to those who've been wronged.

⁵ For You've rescued Zion's worried and thirsty...
From godless men, You have saved us!

⁶ At that time, Jehovah of Armies,
Will hold a great feast for the nations,
Where, on this mountain, they'll drink wine in joy,
⁷ And with perfumed oil, they'll anoint on this hill.

Yes you'll do all these things for the gentiles,
Since this is a plan for all nations.

⁸ 'For death, which prevails, will be swallowed...
Jehovah will wipe away tears from each face,
And remove all disgrace from earth's peoples.'
This was said by the mouth of the Lord.

⁹ And in that day, they will say:
'Look... it's our God in whom we have hoped...
He's the One who brought us salvation.
This is Jehovah... we've waited for Him!
And because He has brought us salvation,
We'll shout praises to Him in great joy!'

¹⁰ Then, on this mountain, God will bring rest,
While the land of Moab will be trampled,
Like a threshing floor rolled on by wagons.

¹¹ He'll unfold His hands and snatch up the haughty...
For their insolence, He will destroy them,
And knock the high walls of their homes to the ground.

Chapter 26

¹ In that day, in Judah, they'll be singing this song:

'Look! [Ours will be] a strong city!
To save us, He'll fortify all of our walls!

² Open, O gates, and let enter,
Those who guard justice and truth...

³ Those who grab truth and guard peace!

⁴ 'Upon You, we've hoped through the age,
O Jehovah, Great God of the ages.

⁵ For You've humbled and brought down those who lived high...
Fortified cities, You have thrown down...

You've torn them down to the ground,

⁶ And as footstools, You've set them under Your feet.

⁷ 'The road for the righteous, You've straightened...
You've prepared a way for the Godly;

⁸ For the paths of Jehovah are just.

'We have put hope in Your Name,
And You, we've never forgotten.

⁹ For, You're what our souls have desired!

'In the [morning], my God, I rise early to You,
For Your orders bring light to the land.

'Learn justice, O you who live on the earth!

¹⁰ For the irreverent will soon all be gone,
Since on this land, they've never learned justice,
Nor have they ever been truthful.
So, please remove the ungodly,
That they may not gaze on Your glory!

¹¹ 'O Jehovah;
Although Your arm is held high,
They've been unable to see it,
And when they realize, they'll be shamed.
Then You'll snatch up those ignorant ones in Your zeal,
And send fire to consume our oppressors.

¹² 'O Jehovah, our God, please bring peace!
For, all that we have was given by You!

¹³ Please own us, Jehovah our God;
For Lord, no other have we known...
We have only called on Your Name.

¹⁴ 'But their dead will never see life,
Nor can any doctor revive them.
Because, You attacked and destroyed them...
From among them, You took every man.

¹⁵ 'O Jehovah;
Add to them all who receive what is bad,
And return what's bad to their glorious ones!

¹⁶ 'O Jehovah;
Though we were oppressed, we didn't forget You,
And during hard times, we followed Your orders.

¹⁷ 'And like a woman with birth pangs
(One who screams before she gives birth),
That's how we are in Your presence, O Lord.

¹⁸ For we fear You, Jehovah [our God].

'We have conceived in the womb...
We went into labor and then we gave birth,
By the spirit of Your salvation...
By the things that You've done on the earth.

'We won't stumble, though others may fall,
¹⁹ And our dead will be raised from their tombs.
Then, all in the land will be joyful.
For as dew, You'll send them a cure,

While the lands of the godless will fail.

²⁰ 'O My people;
Get up, but stay in your bedrooms...
Stay inside and lock all your doors...
Yes, hide in [your homes] for a while!
For, this will happen, then that;
And the rage of Jehovah will pass.

²¹ '{Look!} From His Holy Place, God will be sending His rage,
Upon all those who live on the earth.
Then the ground won't be able to cover the blood,
Nor [the bodies] of those whom He will destroy.'

Chapter 27

¹ In that day, He'll bring His great holy sword,
Against the dragon (the crooked fleeing snake),
And He'll destroy that beast of the sea.

² In that day, there'll be a good vineyard,
And about it, we will sing this song:

³ 'She's a fortress that's under attack,
So it's foolish to [offer her] water.
For, she will be captured during the night,
And her walls will fall the next day.

⁴ 'For, none have failed to have [sex with] her,
So Jehovah did all that He said He would do,
And she's about to be burned.

⁵ 'Then, this is what those who live there will yell:
*With Him, we should make [an agreement of] peace...
Yes, we should make peace [with Him]!*

⁶ Then Jacob's seed will return,
And IsraEl will burst forth and blossom...
Man's home will be filled with its fruitage.

⁷ 'Then they will all be struck down...
Those who once cut down others...
Those who killed many will then be destroyed!

⁸ For He'll send [His angels] against them in war,
And scold those who've acted too harshly...
He'll kill them in a spirit of rage.

⁹ 'Jacob's lawless ways will then pass away,
And to them, [God] will offer this blessing:
I will remove all your sins.

'Then they'll tear down the stones of their shrines,
And grind them to powder and dust.
Their [sacred] poles will no longer be,

And like trees, they'll chop down their idols.

¹⁰ 'The flocks that are left will then dwell there...

Those flocks that they once left behind.

They will spend time in your pastures,

And there, they will have time to rest.

¹¹ But, they won't be eating green grass,

Because, it will have dried [into hay].

'So come, O women, who've seen all this happen;

For you're a people who didn't comprehend.

Show no pity on those who make [idols]...

Feel no mercy for those who have shaped them!

¹² 'In that day, Jehovah will close it all down,

From aqueducts to the RhinoCorura,

As one by one, IsraEl's sons are returned,

¹³ Sounding their horns in that day!

'And those lost to Assyria, will return,

As well as those who went down to Egypt.

They'll all come back and bow to Jehovah,

On His Holy Mount in JeruSalem.'

Chapter 28

¹ Woe to that insolent garland...

Ephraim's hired and his faded flowers...

Those who have fallen from glory,

There on their mount of thick branches...

Yes, those who got drunk without wine.

² For, {Look!} the rage of Jehovah is both strong and hard...

It's like hail that falls with great force,

In a place where there's nowhere to [hide].

It's like a flood that drags away [homes],

In the land where He once sent rest to your hands.

³ Then the feet of Ephraim's hired,

Will trample their insolent garland,

⁴ And its flowers (its hope of glory) will fall,

Like shoots of figs on their mountains.

Then, all who see it in front of their hands,

Will wish to take it and swallow it down.

⁵ In that day, Jehovah of Armies,

Will be the only true garland...

A crown of glory for His people.

⁶ For by the spirit of fairness, they will survive...

By justice and the strength of destruction withheld.

⁷ But, there are those who will stagger and reel,

Because of their liquor and wine.
Yes, it's because of the liquor,
And because they've swallowed the wine,
That the priests and prophets are out of their minds.
And then when they sober, they'll stagger...
Which all will easily see.

⁸ A curse will then devour their plans;
For the plans that they have are just to get rich.

⁹ To whom have we announced all this evil...
To whom have we spoken this message?
To those being weaned from the milk,
And to those being drawn from the breast.

¹⁰ Problems on problems, hope after hope;
Still a little, and then a bit more;
¹¹ For in foreign tongues, they'll speak these foul words:
¹² 'Those who are starved are unworthy,
So we will have to destroy them'
(Which is something that no one wishes to hear).

¹³ Then this oracle of God, they'll receive,
'Problems on problems, hope after hope;
Still a little, and then a bit more'...
And thereafter, they'll be faced with great danger.
For, first they will have to retreat,
And then they'll be broken and captured.

¹⁴ Thus, hear these words of Jehovah:
'O men who are being attacked,
And rulers of JeruSalem's people;
¹⁵ You say that you've made a pact with the grave...
That you've made a treaty with death,
And that, if a windstorm should blow,
It won't be blowing on you.
So you've put hope in [your] lies,
And you [think] that these lies will protect you.

¹⁶ 'Because of this,' says Jehovah;
'{Look!} Upon the foundation of Zion,
I'll place a valuable stone...
A costly, select cornerstone,
In order to serve as its base...
And those trusting in him will never be shamed.

¹⁷ 'Then in place of hope, there'll be judgments;
And to My charity, I'll attach weights.
So those trusting in vain in the lie,
Will not be passed by the storm.

¹⁸ Then your treaty with death will be gone,
Along with your pact with the grave.

'And then, by the blast, you'll be crushed...

¹⁹ When it passes through, it will take you.
Morning after morning, it'll blow upon you,
As well as all through the night;
And all that it brings will be bad.

²⁰ 'Learn how to hear, O you who've been squeezed...
There's no way you'll be able to fight it!
For, you will be weakened, then captured.

²¹ 'Of the godless, the Lord will make mountains,
When to Gibeon's valley, He brings His rage...
It's where His bitter deed will be done.

'His rage will be brought here in strange ways...
Yes, these rotten deeds will be strange.

²² And for you, there'll no longer be joy,
Since you'll not find any strength in your chains.'

Yes, all these things will come soon...
It's what He will bring to this land...
It's what Jehovah of Armies has said.

²³ So give ear and listen to all that I've said...
Pay attention and hear all my words!

²⁴ Doesn't it take a full day,
To get things ready for plowing?
And doesn't the planter have to prepare,
Before he starts working the ground?

²⁵ Doesn't he level its face,
Before he plants pepperwort or cumin,
With wheat, spelt, and barley in its borders?

²⁶ So, that's how you'll be corrected...
In the fair ways of your God...
And then, you'll again [have reasons] for joy.

²⁷ 'You don't scrub Pepperwort to clean it,
And you don't run wagons over cumin!
You beat out pepperwort's [seeds],

²⁸ And cumin should be eaten with bread.

'Thus, I won't remain angry through the ages,
Or with bitter words, will I trample you down.

²⁹ Rather, miracles will be sent by Jehovah of Armies!

So, you should accept all of this counsel,
And not raise hopes of comfort in vain!

Chapter 29

¹ 'Woe to the City of the Altar of God,
On which King David waged war.

'Gather your crops year after year;
And with the people of Moab, you'll eat them.

² Then I'll squeeze the City of the Altar of God,
And all her strength and her wealth will be Mine.

³ 'I'll encircle [your city] like David,
And throw up a siege mound against it.
I'll then surround you with siege towers,

⁴ And your words will be brought to the ground...
Yes, your words will go down to the ground.
Then you'll speak like those who speak from the grave,
And from the ground, your voice will grow weak.

⁵ 'Then the wealth you gained by your godless ways,
Will be like clouds of dust raised by wheels passing by.
For then, all those who oppress you,
Will become as many as dust [in the air].

⁶ 'It will happen right away (in a moment);
And then Jehovah of Armies will then come,
With thunder, disasters, and a great noise...
With wind blasts and flames to consume you.

⁷ 'It will be like a nightmare to you,
When the wealth of many nations comes marching,
Against the City of the Altar of God.
For the armies of her oppressors,
Will gather against JeruSalem.

⁸ 'Then, to all who are sleeping,
And to those who are eating and drinking,
It will all seem like a dream.
For, this is what they will dream:

'Those who get thirsty and drink,
Will still be thirsty when they awake.
And there'll be no more hope in their lives,
When the wealth of many nations come marching on Zion.

⁹ 'Be tipsy, be dizzy, and then be amazed,
But, not from liquor or wine;

¹⁰ For the Lord will give you frustration to drink!

'Then He'll close the eyes of your prophets,
And the eyes of your seers and rulers;

¹¹ Then, all that's written in this sealed-up scroll,
Will be given to a man who knows how to read.

'And you'll say to him, *Read these things!*
But he will reply, *I can't read this,*
Because, it has been tightly sealed!

¹² 'Then you'll hand this scroll to a man who can't read,
And you will tell him to read it;
But he'll answer and say, *I can't read.'*

¹³ For, this is what was said by the Lord:
'With their mouths, these people approach Me,
And with their lips, they offer Me praise...
But they're far away from Me in their hearts.
So it's in vain that they bow before Me,
Since they're teaching the ideas and instructions of men!

¹⁴ 'It's because of this, that I'm coming,
To bring a change on these people...
Yes, I will come and transpose them!
I'll destroy the wisdom of their wise ones,
And the understanding of their discerning, I'll hide.

¹⁵ 'So, woe to those who've come up with plans,
Which haven't been approved by Jehovah!
And woe to those who make them in secret,
As they do things in the cover of darkness and ask:
Since no one can see us or recognize us,
Who can know what we have been doing?

¹⁶ 'Aren't you just clay in the hands of a potter?
And can the molded thing say to its maker:
You aren't really my shaper?
Or can something that's made say to its maker,
I don't like the way that you made me?

¹⁷ 'Soon, Lebanon will meet with a change...
Her mountains will be changed into crop fields,
And the crops on her mountains, into forests.

¹⁸ 'In that day, even those who are deaf,
Will hear the words of this scroll.
Then, those in the darkness and those in the fog,
And the eyes of blind ones will see it!

¹⁹ 'The poor will cheer because of the Lord,
And those without hope will be joyful.
²⁰ For the lawless and evil will then have all failed,
The proud will all be destroyed,
And those who break laws will be gone,
²¹ With those whose words had led them to sin.

'Then, all who reprove at the gates,
Will be known as those who have stumbled;

For they have twisted [the law],
And those who are righteous, they've wronged.

²² 'And concerning the house of Jacob,' says [God]...
'Those whom I have selected
From among AbraHam's sons;
Jacob will not come to shame,
Nor will their faces be saddened.

²³ 'For, when their young see the things that I'll do...
{Look!} Because of Me, they'll hold My Name holy...
They'll [praise] the Holy One of Jacob,
And be in fear of IsraEl's God.

²⁴ 'Then, those with wandering spirits,
Will have to learn understanding...
Yes, those who complain will learn to obey,
And stuttering tongues will learn to speak peace.'

Chapter 30

¹ Jehovah says:
'And woe to you children of apostates...
You who looked for direction from others,
And made treaties that were not by My Spirit...
For by this, you've added to your sins!

² 'You [sent ambassadors] to Egypt,
And asked for help from their PharaOh...
Yes, you sought shelter from Egypt,
But you failed to ask Me!

³ 'So, because you sought PharaOh's protection,
You will come to know shame.
And because you're relying on Egypt,
You will come to know scorn.

⁴ For, the king's envoys in Tanis are evil.

⁵ 'It's so foolish to labor for others,
Who will not bring help or send any aid,
While upon you, they heap shame and scorn.'

⁶ **This is the vision of the four-footed creatures in the desert:**

'In difficult times of distress,
[There stands] the lion and its cub...
And there are asps and the young of winged asps.

'They are those who are bearing your wealth,
On the backs of camels and burros,
To a nation that'll bring you no help...
Who will just heap shame and scorn upon you.

⁷ For, all that Egypt can send,

Is waste and [words] that are empty.
So the comfort they send is in vain!

⁸ [Then the Lord told me]:

'Now, sit down and you must write this...
Record it in the tablet of a scroll.
For, these are the days and times I've appointed...
[They're the things that will happen] in this age:

⁹ 'These are people who resist My persuasion...
Liars who won't listen to God's Law.

¹⁰ They're the ones who say to the Prophets:

Don't bring His pronouncements to us!

And to those who see visions, they say:

Don't tell us the things you have seen!

However, if you must speak,

Just tell us addicting delusions.

¹¹ *Turn us away from this road...*

Yes, shift us away from this course,

And take away IsraEl's curse!"

¹² It's because of this, that thus says the Holy One of IsraEl:

'Since you choose to resist My persuasions,

And prefer to put hope in a lie...

Because you've grumbled and failed to have faith,

¹³ This is what will happen to you:

'Your sins will be like the walls of a city,

That fall and lead to a capture...

For your downfall is now close at hand.

¹⁴ 'And like the breaking of a thin vase,

This crash won't be into parts...

Pieces you can find and pick from the coals,

With which you can hold little water.'

¹⁵ This is what the Lord Jehovah has said...

It's what IsraEl's Holy One said:

'You should moan, then turn around and be saved!

'Think about all these foolish things

In which you've been putting your trust...

Think of how you chose not to hear,

And then, of how weak you became!

¹⁶ 'But you say that you will escape,

From those coming against you on horses...

You think you will flee and you'll say,

We are very light riders!

But those chasing you will be faster.

¹⁷ 'For, thousands will flee at the voice of one man,

And ten thousands will flee at the voices of five.
So, you will be left all alone,
Like a pole on top of a mountain,
Or a flag flying high on a hill.

¹⁸ 'Then once again, you'll [turn back] to God,
And [hope] that He will feel pity.
And because of this; indeed He'll show mercy,
Since your judge is Jehovah, your God.

'Blest are those who stick close to Him;
¹⁹ For the holy will live on Zion once more!

'JeruSalem will cry, *Show mercy on me!*
And He will show mercy upon her.
For, when He hears the sounds of your cries,
He'll pay attention to you.

²⁰ 'Then Jehovah will provide you with water and bread,
And those who misled you will no longer be.
You'll remember those who tried to mislead you,

²¹ And those who followed to trick you...
Those who said, *You should go this way;*
Yes, you should go this way or that!

²² 'Then you'll remove your silver-plate idols,
As well as those that are gilded in gold,
And crush them into fine powder,
Then toss it into the wind.
You'll reject them like a [rag filled with blood],
And throw them away like manure.

²³ 'Then, rain will come to your land and grow seeds;
There'll be plenty of bread and fat in your land.
Your cattle will graze in large fertile fields;
²⁴ Your bulls will work the ground and eat straw,
As they prepare to harvest the barley.

²⁵ 'And in that day;
After many people have been destroyed,
And the towers have all been knocked down,
Water will pour from the mountains and hills.

²⁶ 'Then the moon will be as bright as the sun,
And the sun will be seven times brighter,
In that day when Jehovah brings healing,
To His people who've been broken down,
And an end to the grief of disaster.

²⁷ '{Look!} After a while, the Name of the Lord,
Will come in glory and in burning rage.
The omen from His lips is an omen of rage,

And the flames of His rage are consuming.

²⁸ 'His Breath is like water that races through valleys,
Then comes to the neck and divides.
So, for their addiction to delusions,
He will disturb all the nations;
And [allow] their delusions to trap them.

²⁹ 'Then, whenever you enter [God's] Holy Place,
You will do so in joy...
As though it were a great holiday!
And as you do this, you must be happy...
Sing songs as you travel to the Mountain of [God]!

³⁰ 'Yes, sing to the Lord with the glory of your voice;
For by His arm, He sends wrath and rage...
Like lightning, He violently strikes;
And as flames [of fire], He consumes...
Like rain and hail being driven by storms.

³¹ 'By the voice of Jehovah, Assyria will fall...
He'll strike and bring calamity upon them.

³² For, He is always nearby,
To aid those who put faith in Him...
Those carrying their harps and tambourines.

'He will wage war with all who revolt...

³³ But after some days, He'll let them return;
For He's prepared His Kingdom for them.

'As a ravine that is deep,
And as piles of wood near a fire,
So is the rage of Jehovah...
Like a ravine that is burning with sulfur.

Chapter 31

¹ 'Woe to those who seek help from Egypt...
Those who trust in their chariots and horses,
Because their chariots are many,
And they have great numbers of horses.

'They are those who just will not listen...
In IsraEl's Holy One, they haven't put faith,
And they haven't searched for our God!

² 'Thus He'll wisely bring evil upon them,
So His Word will not be annulled.
Against their houses, He will arise,
And oppose their vain, wicked hopes.

³ 'Egyptians are men... they aren't Gods;
And their horses are no help at all,

Because, they too are just flesh!
So against them, Jehovah will soon raise His hand,
And make those who are helping them tired...
And then, they'll all perish together.'

⁴ Thereafter, the Lord told me this:
'In the same way that a lion or its cub,
Will roar over game that it's taken,
And then continue to roar over it,
Until the mountains are filled with its voice,
And all the prey has been chased away,
Because they've been frightened by its rage;
That's how Jehovah of Armies will be,
When He comes to march against Zion.

⁵ 'But Jehovah of Armies can be like a bird,
That flies above JeruSalem,
So as to rescue, save, and protect.'

⁶ O you sons of IsraEl who have gathered,
So that you discuss lawless things;
It's time for you to turn back!

⁷ For the day will come when you'll turn from your idols...
The things that you've molded from silver and gold...
The things that you've made with your hands!

⁸ 'Then [Assyria] will fall, but not by men's swords...
She'll not be devoured by swords,
Nor will she flee before daggers!
But her young men will then all be conquered...

⁹ They'll be picked up and beaten like rocks for a siege,
And those who flee will be captured.'

This was also said by the Lord:
'Blest are those who have seeds in Zion,
And those with families in JeruSalem.'

Chapter 32

¹ '{Look!}' Then a righteous king will start reigning,
And in justice, his princes will rule.

² Each man will be like a shelter from wind,
And a place to run from the storms...
Like streams of water in a dry land,
And the shade of a rock in the desert.

³ 'Then, men will no longer put trust in men,
And ears they'll be given to hear.

⁴ Hearts of the weak will be paying attention,
And stammering tongues will learn to speak peace.

⁵ 'They'll not [appoint] morons to rule anymore,
Or tell their officials to be quiet!

⁶ But now, the morons just say foolish things,
And in their hearts, they plan what is wasteful.

'They are doing things that are lawless,
And against the Lord, they're speaking delusions,
To scatter the souls of the hungry,
And bring waste to the lives of the thirsty.

⁷ 'What the wicked recommend are plans to do bad...
They speak to take advantage of the meek.
They overrule with unrighteous words,
Any judgments that would favor the lowly.

⁸ 'But, those who love God will consult,
With those who have understanding,
And the things they suggest are the things that will last.

⁹ 'Hey, all you rich women;
Wake up and listen to all that I've said!
O you daughters who still live in hope;
To My words, you should pay close attention!

¹⁰ 'Speak of each day in grief, but with hope.
For the crops have all been consumed,
The planting has come to an end,
And things are not getting better.

¹¹ 'So, be amazed... and then worry,
All you who've tried to persuade!

¹² Strip off your clothes 'til you're naked,
Then wrap your waists and beat on your breasts,
On behalf of the crops of the fields,
As well as for the produce of vines!

¹³ 'For the land of My people has now become thorns...
Even the grass will all soon be dry,
And joy will be removed from each home.

¹⁴ 'The houses will then be abandoned,
Wealth will [flow] from your towns,
And all the best cities and homes
Will exist as caves through the age...
Places of joy for wild burros,
As well as pastures for shepherds.

¹⁵ 'But when [God's] Breath flows from the heavens again,
The deserts will once more become fruitful fields,
And the fields will be thought of as forests.

¹⁶ 'Then, judgment will rest in the deserts;

Justice will dwell on [Mount] CarMel;
¹⁷ Of peace and righteous ways, there'll be plenty.

'This righteousness will then be spread out,
And bring rest to the faithful through the ages.

¹⁸ So God's people will live in cities of peace,
And the saved will rest and live richly.

¹⁹ 'Then if hail should fall, it won't fall on you;
And the meek who dwell in the forests,
Will be as those who live in the plains.

²⁰ For, those who plant will be blest,
And there will be water where burros once tread.

Chapter 33

¹ 'Woe to those who bring misery,
But who are made miserable by no one,
As well as those who show no respect,
But who are highly regarded.

'For, those who show no respect,
Will be captured and then handed over,
Like a moth that's caught in a robe and destroyed.'

² O Jehovah, show mercy upon us,
For, we are relying on You.
Destroy the seed of those who oppose us,
But, save us in our time of oppression!

³ Your fearful sounds will startle the men,
And in fear, the nations will scatter.
⁴ But then You'll gather Your spoils great and small,
As though You were picking up locusts.

⁵ Holy is The God who lives in the skies;
For, Zion will be filled with fairness and justice.
⁶ In that time, He'll become a foundation that's firm...
A source of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge.
For in Him, all wisdom and knowledge exists...
And fear of God [is the key] to this treasure.

⁷ {Look!} Those fearing You will be frightened...
They'll yell out in fear over You!
For, You will send angels who will bring peace,
And this will cause the unrighteous to weep,
⁸ Since that will bring an end to their ways.

'And the nations will also have reasons for fear,
Because of the treaties they've broken,
And because they've shown no respect.

⁹ The lands will all go into mourning,

And Lebanon will be brought to shame.
But the marshes will then be like Sharon,
And like Galilee and CarMel, they'll shine.

¹⁰ 'That's when I will stand tall,' says Jehovah...
'I'll be glorified and respected.

¹¹ When you see it, you'll then understand,
That their efforts have all been in vain.

'For their spirits will be consumed as by fire;

¹² And by the nations, they will be burned,
Like thorn bushes out in the fields,
That have been tossed in the flames.

¹³ 'Then, from far away, they'll hear what I've done;
And those who approach will know of My might.

¹⁴ For the lawless will be taken from Zion,
And the irreverent will then start to shake.

'So, who will make the announcement...
The announcement that the fire has been lit?
Yes, who will speak of these things,
In this ancient place of the ages?

¹⁵ Just the one who is walking uprightly;
The one who tells things just as they are;
The one who hates lawless ways and injustice;
The one whose hands shake off bribes;
The one who won't listen to judgments of blood,
And whose eyelids are closed to injustice.

¹⁶ 'At that time, he will stay in a cave in the heights,
Which is surrounded by boulders.
His bread will also be given to him,
And he can trust [that he will have] water.

¹⁷ 'Then your eyes will see a glorious king,
Who will come from a far-away land...

¹⁸ And your soul will contemplate fear.

'So, what will happen to all of the scribes...
What will happen to all the advisors...
What will happen to the accountants and their records?

¹⁹ 'For from the small to the great, they don't take advice,
Nor do they listen to warnings,
Against the ways they're mistreating the people...
So, none will understand what they're being told.

²⁰ 'O great city on Zion;
Look and see your salvation...
See JeruSalem as a city of wealth,
Filled with unshakable tents.

'There the tent poles will last through the ages,
Their cords won't have to be pulled,
²¹ And they'll be called by the Name of Jehovah.

'There'll be aqueducts and wide rivers;
But, you will not travel upon them,
For boats will never be rowed there.'

²² My God, Jehovah, will not pass me by,
Because the Lord is our judge...
Yes, He's our ruler and king,
And our God will bring us salvation!

²³ Meanwhile, all of your ropes will be torn,
And all your boat masts will weaken...
They'll lean, so their sails cannot be unfurled,
And their flags will never be raised,
Until all that you have has been plundered...
Plundered by even the lame!

²⁴ But, those who remain won't say they are tired,
For their sins have all been forgiven.

Chapter 34

¹ 'Listen, O nations, and pay attention you rulers!
Hear, O earth and its dwellers...
The habitation of man and all you who live there;
² For Jehovah is bringing His rage to the nations...
His rage upon all their numbers,
To destroy and hand them to slaughter.

³ 'Their slain and dead will be just thrown away;
Their smell will ascend [to the heavens],
And their blood will rain down on the mountains.

⁴ 'Then the powers of the heavens will melt;
The sky will be wrapped like a scroll;
And all the stars will then fall,
Like the leaves of a grapevine or fig.

⁵ 'For My sword will then become drunk in the sky,
And {Look!} upon Edom's land, it will fall...
Upon peoples who've been judged for destruction.

⁶ 'In Bozrah, His sword will be thick with blood,
And with the fat of lambs, goats, and rams,
Which will be sacrificed to our God,
When a great slaughter is brought upon Edom.

⁷ 'Even the stout will be killed and thrown down,
Along with the rams and the bulls.
So their land will be drunk on their blood,

And it will be filled with their fat,
All the way to its borders.

⁸ 'This is the Lord's great Judgment Day...

A year of payback and judgment for Zion.

⁹ Their valleys will then be all filled with tar,
And their ground [will be covered with] sulfur.

¹⁰ 'Through ages, they'll burn with tar day and night,
And the flames will not be extinguished.

Her smoke will keep on ascending;
And for generations, she'll be desolation...
She'll lie barren for a very long time.

¹¹ 'Then birds, and ibis, and hedgehogs,
As well as crows, will be all that dwells there.
A surveyor's line will mark her destruction,
And she'll be inhabited [by demons].

¹² 'Then, she will be without rulers,
Because her kings and her great men are gone.

¹³ So, thorns will grow in her cities and forts,
Where they will be owned by chained demons...
A place where ostriches roam.

¹⁴ 'Then [loose] demons will meet with the chained ones,
And they will yell to each other.
There chained [spirits] will rest,
For they'll have found a place to retire.

¹⁵ 'Hedgehogs too, will build nests there,
And in safety, their young will play on the ground.
There, stags will all meet together,
Then stare face to face at each other.

¹⁶ 'They'll pass in large numbers and none will be lost...
They'll not have to search for each other,
Since the Lord will give them instructions,
And with His Breath, they'll be gathered.

¹⁷ 'Then on their behalf, He will cast lots,
And divide up the land for their grazing,
Which they will inherit through ages...
From generation to generation, there they'll find rest.

Chapter 35

¹ 'So be glad, O you thirsty desert...
Shout in joy and blossom with lilies!

² For the desert by the Jordan will cry out and bloom,
And the beauty of Lebanon will be given to it,
Along with the honor of Carmel.

At that time, my people will see,
The glory of their [God] Jehovah,
And know the full stature of Him.

³ Be strong, forsaken hands and weak knees!
⁴ Take comfort, O you with faint-hearts!
Be strong and don't be afraid;
For {Look!} with judgments, our God will [bring] justice...
Yes, He will come here and save!

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
And the ears of the deaf will be able to hear.

⁶ The lame will be leaping like stags,
And stammering tongues will speak clearly.

A spring will burst forth in the desert,
And through thirsty lands, water will flow.

⁷ Then deserts will be turned into marshes;
In a dry land, there'll be springs;
And among reeds and marshes, birds will find joy.

⁸ Then, there will be a pure road,
That will be called, 'The Way of the Holy.'
And nothing unclean will pass through it;
So, it will always be pure.

Those who were scattered will travel that way,
And from it, they will not stray.

⁹ No lions or fierce beasts will roam there,
Nor will they even be found.
There'll just be those who've been ransomed...

¹⁰ Only those gathered by the Lord will tread there.

'They'll return to Zion in joy,
And in the glee of the ages.
For, blessings will come upon all their heads;
They'll be happy and leaping for joy;
Since, from distress, grief and moaning,
They will then have escaped.'

Chapter 36

¹ It was in the fourteenth year of the reign of HezekiAh that SenNaCherib, the king of Assyria, [marched against] the fortified cities of Judah and took them. ² Then the king of Assyria sent RabShakeh from LachIsh to King HezekiAh in JeruSalem with a huge army, and he [set up camp] by the aqueduct to the upper pool, on the road to the field of the washerwomen.

³ So EliAkim (the son of HilkiAh) [the King's] house manager, the scribe ShebNa, and JoAh (the son of Asaph) the recorder, went out to meet with him. ⁴ And RabShakeh said to them: 'Speak to HezekiAh and tell him that this is what the great king of Assyria has

said: *What are you relying on? ⁵ Have you worked out a plan with the words from your lips about how you're going to fight this battle? On whom are you relying so that you're resisting my persuasion? ⁶ Look; you're relying on that fractured reed cane Egypt, which, if a man should put his weight on it, will go all the way through his hand. Yes, this is all that Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) and those who are relying on him amount to. ⁷ And if you should say that you're relying on your God Jehovah; isn't He the same One whose high places and altars were removed by Hezekiah, and who then told Judah and Jerusalem that they had to bow before the Altar here?*

⁸ 'Why not rather join with my lord the king of Assyria? For if you do, I'll give you two-thousand horses (that is, if you're able to provide enough riders for them). ⁹ Can your governors who are relying on the Egyptians provide you with enough horses and riders?

¹⁰ 'Do you think that we were able to come up to this place and wage war against it without [the aid of] Jehovah? Why, it was Jehovah who told us to come to this land and destroy it!'

¹¹ Well, Eliakim, Shebna, and Johai then said to Rabshakeh: 'Please speak to your servants in Syriac, so we alone can [understand] what you're saying. Don't speak to us in the Judean tongue! Why must you speak so that all the men along the walls can hear you?'

¹² And Rabshakeh replied: 'Do you think that my lord sent me to speak these words just to your lord? For, aren't these men who are sitting along the walls the ones that will have to eat their own poop and drink their own pee?'

¹³ And at that, Rabshakeh stood up and yelled in a loud voice in the Judean language: 'Pay attention to the words of the great king of the Assyrians! ¹⁴ For this is what the king said: *Don't be fooled by what Hezekiah has told you, because there's no way that he can save you! ¹⁵ And don't let Hezekiah tell you that his God will rescue you; for there's no way that He can save this city from the hands of the king of Assyria!*

¹⁶ 'The king of Assyria says: *'Don't listen to Hezekiah! If you want to receive his blessings, come here to me and you'll each eat from your own grapevines and fig trees, and drink water from your own wells. ¹⁷ Because, when I come here, I will take you to a land that will become yours... a land of grain, wine, bread, and vineyards!*

¹⁸ *'Don't let Hezekiah deceive you and say, Our God will come and save us! Have any of the gods of the nations been able to rescue his own place out of the hands of the king of Assyria? ¹⁹ Where are the gods of Hamath or Arphad? Where is the god of the Cities of Scrolls... was he able to rescue Samaria from my hands? ²⁰ Since none of these gods of the nations could rescue their lands from my hands, how can Jehovah save Jerusalem from my hands?'*

²¹ Well, everyone stayed silent and no one answered with a word, because the king had decreed that no one was to give him a reply.

²² Then Eliakim (the son of Helkiah) the house manager, Shebna the scribe, and Johai (the son of Asaph) the recorder, ripped their clothes and returned to Hezekiah to tell him what Rabshakeh had said.

Chapter 37

¹ Well, when King HezekiAh heard this, he tore off his clothes and put on sackcloth; then he went to the [Temple] of Jehovah, ² while he sent EliAkim his house manager, ShebNa the scribe, and the elders among the priests (all wearing sack cloth) to the Prophet IsaiAh (the son of Amoz). ³ For he told them to say, 'These are the words of HezekiAh: *This is a day of affliction, scorning, scolding, and rage... it's a day of all the pain of a woman who doesn't have the strength to give birth!* ⁴ So, may Jehovah your God hear the words of RabShakeh, who was sent by his lord the king of Assyria to berate the living God... may Jehovah your God hear the words that he said to berate Him! Please go to Jehovah your God to beg before Him concerning those of us who are still left here!'

⁵ So the servants of King HezekiAh went to IsaiAh, ⁶ and IsaiAh said, ⁶ 'Tell your lord that Jehovah said this: *You shouldn't be afraid of the words that you heard the ambassador of the king of Assyria say to berate Me, ⁷ for {Look!} I will bring a spirit against him, and when he hears its message, he'll just go back to his place, where he will fall by the sword within his own land!*

⁸ Meanwhile, RabShakeh had returned to the king of Assyria, who was attacking LibNah at the time. For the king had left LachIsh, ⁹ because he was told that TirHakah, the king of Ethiopia, was coming to fight him.

Then [SenNaCherib] sent people to HezekiAh with a message that said this: ¹⁰ 'Tell HezekiAh the king of Judah not to allow his God upon whom he is relying to deceive him when He says there's no way that JeruSalem will be given into the hands of the king of the Assyrians. ¹¹ {Look!} Haven't you heard what the kings of Assyria have done to the whole earth and of the destruction that they've brought? So, who is going to save you now? ¹² Have the gods of any of the nations that my father destroyed been able to rescue them... those of Gozan, Haran, and Rezech in the region of Tel Assar? ¹³ Where are the kings of HaMath, and where is ArPhad? Where are the cities of SepharVaim, Henah, and Hivah?'

¹⁴ Well, HezekiAh took the proclamation from [SenNaCherib's] messengers and read it. Then he [once again] went up to the [Temple] of Jehovah, where he unrolled [the scroll] before the Lord. ¹⁵ Then he prayed to Jehovah, saying: ¹⁶ 'O Jehovah of Armies, God of IsraEl... the One who rests upon cherubs; You're the only God over all the kingdoms of the habitation of man, for You're the One who made the lands and the skies. ¹⁷ So, O Jehovah; lean Your ear toward me and please listen to me, O Lord! O Jehovah, open Your eyes! Look down, O Jehovah, then listen to and understand all the words that SenNaCherib sent to berate the living God! ¹⁸ It's a fact, O Jehovah, that the kings of the Assyrians have conquered the entire habitation of mankind everywhere. ¹⁹ And there amidst all the flames, they've erected their idols to replace those that were never gods but are just the works of the hands of men (things made of wood and stone), after they did all their destroying.

²⁰ 'But now, O Jehovah our God; rescue us from his hands, so that all the kingdoms of the earth will know that You are the only God!'

²¹ Well thereafter, [God sent] IsaiAh (the son of Amoz) to HezekiAh, and he told him that Jehovah, the God of IsraEl, said this:

I have heard the things that you prayed
Concerning SenNaCherib, Assyria's king.

²² And [tell him that] this is Jehovah's reply:
*You've sneered at the virgin daughter of Zion,
And you've treated her with disrespect.
So [the virgin] daughter of Jerusalem,
Has nodded her head against you!*

²³ *'Do you know whom you've provoked and berated,
Or against whom you've raised your voice,
And lifted your eyes to the heights?
It's against the Holy One of IsraEl!*

²⁴ *'Through messengers, you've berated Jehovah,
When you said, I will climb up their mountains,
Leading huge numbers of chariots,
All the way from Lebanon's borders.
Then, on their heights, I'll cut down their cedars,
And the beauty of their cypress trees.*

*Yes, I'll climb to the tops of their forests,
²⁵ And then I'll dam up their [rivers].*

²⁶ Haven't you heard of the things I can do,
Which I ordered to be done long ago?
For I've shown how I can destroy,
Nations and fortified cities,
And those who live in their towns and forts.
²⁷ For I've weakened and dried up their hands,
Turning them into dry hay,
And like the grass that grows on their roofs.

²⁸ *'I know that you've been taking some rest,
From all of your comings and goings.*

²⁹ *And now, all of your bitterness and rage,
Is being directed toward Me!
So I'll put a rein through your nose,
And I'll put a bit in your lips,
Then I'll send you back by the way that you came.'*

³⁰ [Then IsaiAh told HezekiAh]:
'This is the sign that He'll do it:
This year, you'll eat what you've planted,
Then in the second, you'll eat what remains.
And in the third, you'll plant and reap once again...
You will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

³¹ 'And the same will be true of all those,
Who still remain in Judea.
They will sprout roots from down below,
And from above, they'll reap grain.

³² Then, those who are left in JeruSalem
(Those who remain on Mount Zion),
Will be brought to the fore,
Through the zeal of Jehovah of Armies.'

³³ 'So, this is what Jehovah has said concerning the king of the Assyrians:
*There's no way that they'll enter this city...
They won't shoot an arrow against it,
Nor will they lift up a shield,
Or build a siege mound around it.*
³⁴ *They'll just return by the way that they came,
And they won't enter this city!*

'Jehovah said:

³⁵ *I'll shield this city and save it,
Because of Myself and My servant David.'*

³⁶ Well thereafter, one of Jehovah's messengers came and destroyed the camp of the Assyrians... a hundred and eighty-five thousand of them! So when the [people] awoke the next morning, all they found was just dead bodies! ³⁷ And at that, SenNaCherib the king of the Assyrians, [packed up] and left for Nineveh, where he went to live. ³⁸ And it was while he was there bowing to the ground in the temple of his god Nisroch, that AdramMelech and ShaRezer (his sons) struck him with swords, before fleeing to Armenia. So another son, EsarHaddon, started reigning in his place.

Chapter 38

¹ It was shortly after this that HezekiAh became ill to the point of death. So the Prophet IsaiAh (the son of Amoz) went to him and told him, 'This is what Jehovah said:
*Give orders regarding your house,
Because, you won't live... you will die.'*

² Then HezekiAh turned his face to the wall and prayed to Jehovah, saying: ³ 'O Jehovah; Remember that I've walked before You in truth and with a true heart, and remember all the things that I've done to please You.' And with that, HezekiAh broke down and cried.

⁴ Well thereafter, the word of Jehovah came to IsaiAh, saying: ⁵ 'Go tell HezekiAh that Jehovah said this:

*The God of your ancestor David,
Has heard your prayer and seen your tears.
So {Look!} I'm adding fifteen more years to your [life].
⁶ I'll also rescue you and this city
From the hands of the Assyria's king...
For around this city, I'm putting a shield.*

⁷ 'And this is your sign from Jehovah that He's going to do the things that He said:

⁸ *{Look!} I will turn the shadow of the sun,
Which moves down ten stairs in the house of your fathers,
And I will then cause the sun's shadow,
To go up the ten stairs it went down.'*

⁹ Then this is the prayer that HezekiAh the king of Judea prayed after [learning that he would] recover from his illness:

¹⁰ 'I prayed to the heavens concerning my days,
For I was at the gate to the place of the dead,
Since I had been robbed of the rest of my years.

¹¹ 'So I said, *I'll no longer look to Jehovah,
Within the land of the living.
And no way will I [be seen] anymore,
By any of those who are living.*

¹² *'My family, I had forsaken,
And I'd [written off] the rest of my life.
For my life was ending and leaving like those,
Who [who spend just a night] in a tent,
And my breath had become like the end of the weave,
To be cut off like wool from a loom.*

¹³ *'In that day, I was spared through the morning.
Then, like a lion, He broke all my bones...
From morning 'til night I was conquered.*

¹⁴ *So, should I let out a call like a swallow,
Or take time to think like a dove?*

*'When my eyes couldn't see the top of the sky,
Jehovah became my salvation...*

¹⁵ *He acted and took the grief from my soul.*

¹⁶ *'To Jehovah, I [prayed] about this,
And then He awakened my spirit...
I'm alive, because He sent comfort to me.*

¹⁷ *'{Look!} Resting in peace, was bitter for me,
But You gave back my life, so I'd live,
And You pushed all my sins to the rear.*

¹⁸ *So, those in the grave should all praise You,
And those who are dying should bless You.*

*'It's too late for those in the grave,
¹⁹ Since only the living can praise You.
So, from this day, I'll raise many children,
Who will shout in praise of Your justice.*

²⁰ *'O [Jehovah] my Savior;
For the rest of my life, I will praise You...
And not cease to play on my harp about You,
In the [Temple] of God.'*

²¹ Then IsaiAh said to HezekiAh: 'Now, take a cluster of dried figs and grind them up to make a plaster [for your chest], and your health will return.'

²² And that's when HezekiAh asked, 'What is the sign that I'll be able to go up to the

[Temple] of my God once again?'

Chapter 39

¹ Well at the time, Merodach Baladan (the son of Baladan, the king of Babylonia) had sent letters, ambassadors, and gifts to HezekiAh, because he'd heard that he was ill to the point of death and that he'd been [granted a recovery], ² and this made HezekiAh very joyful. As the result, he showed them his storehouses filled with spices, silver, gold, balsam, incense, perfumes, his treasury buildings and everything in his treasuries... there wasn't anything that HezekiAh failed to show them.

³ Then the Prophet IsaiAh went to King HezekiAh and asked: 'What did you say to those men, and from where did they come to visit you?'

And HezekiAh replied: 'They came from a far away land... from the land of Babylon.'

⁴ Then IsaiAh asked: 'Did they see your [palace]?'

And HezekiAh said: 'Yes, they saw everything in my house... there isn't anything that I failed to show them, including everything in my treasuries.'

⁵ Then IsaiAh said, 'Hear the word of Jehovah of Armies:

⁶ *Look, the day will now come,
When they will take all the things
Your ancestors collected down to this day,
And they'll carry them back to Babylon,
Leaving nothing behind!*

⁷ 'God also said that they will take your children (those whom you have fathered) and make them eunuchs in the houses of Babylon.'

⁸ Then HezekiAh said to IsaiAh: 'The word of Jehovah that you spoke to me is good... but may there be peace and justice during the days [of my reign]!'

Chapter 40

¹ 'Take comfort, take comfort, My people,'
Says [Jehovah], Your God!

² 'O Priests, you must speak and bring comfort,
To JeruSalem's heart;
For her humbling has been fulfilled,
And all of her sins are untied.
Yet, it was because of her sins,
That she's received twice as much from His hand.'

³ There was a voice that I heard calling out from the desert, which said:
'Prepare the way for the Lord!
Straighten the roads for our God!

⁴ Fill every valley and flatten the mountains and hills!
All crooked paths must be straightened,
And the ruts in the fields must be smoothed!

⁵ Then the glory and salvation of God will be seen;
For Jehovah told us to do this.'

⁶ Then the voice again shouted, 'Now, yell!'

And I asked, 'What should I yell?'

'Yell that all flesh is just grass,
And man's glory is like the flowers of grass.

⁷ But now, the grass has all dried,
And all their flowers have dropped;
For God's Breath has been breathed upon them.

'Now, this grass is truly the people.

⁸ And though the grass may dry and its flowers may drop;
God's Word endures through the ages.

⁹ 'Climb upon that high mount,
O you who are bringing good news to Zion,
And shout it as loud as you can!
You who bring good news for JeruSalem;
Shout it out loud and don't be afraid!

'To the cities of Judah, you must shout this:
Look and see... for here comes Your God!

¹⁰ *Your Lord, Jehovah, is coming in strength,
And to conquer, His arm has been raised!*

*'Look... He's bringing the wages,
For the things being done here before Him!*

¹¹ *Like a shepherd, He's arrived to tend to His flock,
Then He'll gather His lambs in His arms,
And within His womb, give them comfort.*

¹² 'Who can measure all the water in the skies,
With just the span of His hand,
And who holds the whole earth as a handful?
Who established the weight of the mountains,
And who weighs the forests in the yoke of a scale?

¹³ 'And who knows the mind of Jehovah...

Who has become His advisor,
And who can give Him instructions?

¹⁴ Whom has He asked for advice,
And who has told Him the things He should do?

'Who taught Him how to be just...
Who has shown Him the right ways to think?

¹⁵ For the nations are like drops from a bucket...
They've been [weighed] in the yoke on a scale,
And found to be [no more than] spit.

¹⁶ 'To Him, all of Lebanon is unfit to burn,
And unfit for sacrifice are its four-footed beasts.

¹⁷ Before Him, the nations are also unfit...

For He views them as nothing at all.

¹⁸ 'To whom can the Lord be compared?
Just how would you [make an image] of Him?

¹⁹ Aren't statues created by [artists]...
Aren't they each carefully prepared,
Then cast and gilded by smiths?

²⁰ 'Doesn't the maker choose durable wood,
And wisely choose the best place
To stand it where it will not fall?

²¹ 'Don't you know, and haven't you heard...
Weren't you told this from the beginning...
Do you how the earth was established?

²² He's the One who holds fast the curve of the earth,
And those dwelling upon it are like locusts.
He's the One who established the skies like a veil,
And stretched it like a tent in which they could dwell.

²³ Then He made their rulers as rulers of nothing,
And as nothing, He brought forth the land.

²⁴ '[Without Him], we can't plant or sow,
Nor can our plants grow roots in the ground;
Because He can just breathe and they'll dry...
With a blast, like twigs, they'll just blow away.

²⁵ 'And this Most Holy One is now asking you this:
Whom can you liken to Me...

Can you make Me look more important?

²⁶ *Look high in the sky [and then tell Me],
Who introduced all these things?*

'He's the One who assembled them all...
All the things within His arrangement!
Then, in His great glory and strength,
He named it all before you had noticed!

²⁷ 'Would you dare to say before Jacob,
*O IsraEl, why have you spoken to me,
For my ways have been hidden from God,
So I won't stand in judgment before Him?*

²⁸ 'Don't you know... haven't you heard?
God [exists] through the ages!
He's the One who prepared the ends of the earth,
But He doesn't get hungry or tired,
Nor can His wisdom be fathomed.

²⁹ 'He's the One who gives strength to the famished,
And brings comfort to those who are grieved.

³⁰ 'Why, the youngest of men will get hungry and tired,
And the best of men will lose all his strength.
³¹ But, those who wait upon God will grow strong...
Like eagles, they will grow wings,
Then they'll run without getting tired...
They'll keep going without getting hungry.'

Chapter 41

¹ 'O [you gentiles who live] in the islands;
You should hold feasts to My [Name].
For the powers that are now will be altered!
So, let them come and confer,
Then announce what they have decided!

² 'For [I've] stirred up one in the east,
Who'll bring justice and call it to walk on its feet.
To him, I'll hand over the nations,
And before him, I'll remove kings.

'He'll force them to bury their swords,
And break their bows up like twigs.

³ But, though he's the one who will chase them,
His feet will tread peaceful paths.

⁴ 'By whom will he accomplish these things?
By the One who called for this generation,
Back in the very beginning.
The One who said, *I am God...*
I'm the first, and I'm into [the future]!

⁵ 'Nations will see Me and fear;
To the ends of the earth, they'll be startled,
And then they'll be gathered together.

⁶ 'So neighbors will decide [to do what is good],
And they'll offer help to their brothers and say,
⁷ *The one who brought us together is strong*
(The blacksmith who forged it with a hammer),
But how long can [this unity] last?

'And he will give this reply:
The bond [between us] is good;
For I've made it stronger with rivets...
I've made it so it cannot be broken!

⁸ 'But you, O IsraEl, My servant...
Yes Jacob, whom I have chosen...
AbraHam's seed whom I've loved...

⁹ Those whom I've snatched from the ends of the earth...
Those whom I called from its heights...

Those to whom I said this:

*'To be My servant, I chose you,
And you, I've never abandoned.*

¹⁰ *So, don't be afraid, for I'm with you...
Don't stray from Me, because I'm your God...
I'm the One who gives you your strength,
And with My righteous right hand, send you aid.*

¹¹ *'{Look!} Your enemies will all come to shame,
And no more will they fail to respect you,
For they won't exist anymore,
Since all who oppose you will perish!*

¹² *'Then you'll search and you will not find them...
Those drunks who've been shouting insults at you,
Because they will no longer be...
There'll be none to wage war against you,
¹³ For, I am your God who's at your right hand!*

*'I'm the One who is saying to you,
¹⁴ O Jacob, don't be afraid...
[Don't fear], O IsraEl's remnants,
Because I'm your helper... your God.'*

*'O IsraEl;
I'm the One who paid the ransom for you,
¹⁵ {Look!} And I've made you like a threshing device,
That is fitted with many new teeth;
So you'll thresh the mountains and thin out the hills...
Then, into dust, you will turn them.*

¹⁶ *'Yes, you will winnow them all,
And the winds will blow them away...
By a windstorm, they will be scattered.
And among IsraEl's holy, there will be joy.*

¹⁷ *'The poor and needy will then be rejoicing...
Those who've been searching for water,
But haven't been able to find it,
And those whose tongues have dried out from thirst.*

*'For, I am Jehovah, IsraEl's God...
I'll pay attention and never desert you.
¹⁸ On the mountains, I'll open up rivers,
And into the plains, I'll put springs.*

*'Deserts, I'll turn into marshes,
And into thirsty ground, put canals.
¹⁹ In the waterless land, I'll plant boxwoods and cedars,
Along with white poplars, myrtles, and cypress.*

²⁰ 'Then, all who see them will know,
That it came by the hand of Jehovah...
By the Holy One of IsraEl, they were planted.

²¹ 'But your time of judgment has arrived,' says Jehovah.
'The time of decision has come,'
Says the Great King over Jacob.

²² 'So, let all [your idols] step forward,
And tell you the things that will happen.
For, they're the ones to whom you said:
*We'll pay close attention you,
Then we can decide what will happen,
And know how it all will work out.*

²³ 'So, ask [your idols] to tell you...
Have them announce the things that will be;
Then we'll know that they truly are gods
Who can choose good or bad for themselves...
Yes, we'll wonder and see it at the same time.

²⁴ 'Then we'll know the place from which they have come,
And see the source of the things they can do...
These ones that those who live here have chosen...
The disgusting things that they have preferred.

²⁵ 'But, from the north, I'll raise someone,
And someone from the east and the sunrise,
And they'll both be called by My Name.

'Now, let these rulers both come,
And then, like the clay of a potter
(The clay that he works [with his feet]),
They will trample you down.

²⁶ 'So, which [of your idols] can tell you,
How it all was at the start,
So we can know how it all came to be...
Have them tell us how it all came to pass!
Aren't any of them able to speak?
For, no one has heard a reply!

²⁷ 'I'm the One who raised Zion high...
The One who sent comfort to JeruSalem.
²⁸ Yet {Look!} the nations have heard nothing at all...
No announcements have come from their idols!

'So, if I should ask where they came from,
No way can they give a reply.

²⁹ But you say that you were created by them...
How foolish are the ways you've been led!"

Chapter 42

¹ 'Jacob, My child, I'll hold onto you...
IsraEl, the one that I've chosen.

'So [I'm sending someone] who will pour out My Breath,
And who will pass judgment on nations.

² He won't cry out or raise his voice,
And his words won't be heard out of doors.

³ 'No crushed reed will he break,
And no smoking flax wick will he snuff.
Rather, he will truly bring what is fair...

⁴ He'll endure and not be destroyed,
Until he brings the land justice.

'In his name, the nations will hope,'

⁵ So said [Jehovah our] God,
The One who made and assembled the skies,
Who founded the earth and everything in it,
And who poured His Breath on the people...
On those who walk [in His ways].

⁶ 'I'm Jehovah, who called you in justice...
I'll grab hold of your hand and I'll give you strength.

'With you, I made a Sacred Agreement,
To make you a light to the nations,
⁷ To open the eyes of the blind,
To lead out those who are shackled,
And those who sit in dark dungeons.

⁸ 'I'm [Jehovah your] God... yes, that is My Name.
My glory, I'll give to none other,
And I'll not give My glory to things that are carved.

⁹ '[Look!] The ancient things have already been,
But the new things that I announce,
Will happen before I announce them!

¹⁰ 'So, sing a new hymn to Jehovah...
Glorify His Name to the ends of the earth,
O you who sail and go down to the seas,
And you who live on the islands!

¹¹ 'And you in the deserts, be glad,
As well as you in the cities and lands,
And those who are dwelling in Kedar!
For those living in [caves] will be joyful,
And from the tops of the mountains, they'll yell out in joy.

¹² 'They'll all give glory to God,
And the Islands will speak of His virtues.

¹³ Then the God of Armies, Jehovah, will come,
And bring an end to all wars.

'He'll awaken His zeal and His strength,
And against His enemies, He will say this:

¹⁴ *Through the age, I have remained silent,
But, must I still be patient and quiet...
Must I endure like a woman with birth pangs?*

I'll amaze you by making them wither away...

¹⁵ I'll destroy their mountains and hills,
And I will dry up their grass.
In their rivers, I will put islands,
And I'll turn their marshes into dry lands.

¹⁶ I'll lead these blind ones in ways they don't know,
And make them walk on roads they can't see.
Then their darkness, I'll turn into light,
And their crooked ways, I will straighten.

'These are the things that I'll do,
For I won't abandon [my people]...

¹⁷ Although they'll be forced to retreat.

'So, be ashamed (yes, you should feel shame),
O you who put faith in carved [idols]...
You who say to things that were formed by your hands,
You are [truly] our gods!

¹⁸ 'Listen to Me, you deaf mutes...

Look and see, all you blind ones!

¹⁹ For, who are as blind as My servants,
And who are more deaf than their rulers...
Yes, who are as blind as those who've had all?
For God's servants have now all gone blind!

²⁰ How many times have you looked, but not seen,
And with opened ears, been unable to hear?'

²¹ The Will of Jehovah is righteous,
And it will once more be praised and held high.

²² I beheld that it all came to pass...

The people were plundered and looted.
In all their stores, there were snares,
So they gathered to hide in their homes,
For they had all become plunder...
There was no one to save all the captured...
There was no one to say, 'Give them back!'

²³ Who will give ear to these things,
And hear the things that will be?

²⁴ Who gave Jacob that he might be ravaged,
And who gave IsraEl to serve as their loot?
Hadn't they sinned against God?
Didn't they choose not to walk in His ways,
And not pay attention to His Laws?

²⁵ So He sent upon them His anger and rage...
He sent their neighbors to burn them in war.
Yet, none understood or took it to heart.

Chapter 43

¹ Thus says Jehovah, [your] God
(The One who made you, O Jacob;
The One who shaped you, O IsraEl):
'Don't fear, for I've paid your ransom.
By My Name, I called you, and now you are Mine!

² 'So, if you must pass through the waters,
I will be there [to guard] you,
And the rivers won't swallow you down.
Or if you should travel through fire,
You will not be consumed...
You won't be burned by its flames.

³ 'For, I am Jehovah, your God...
I'm IsraEl's Holy One, who will save you.
I'm the One who bargained for you,
With Egypt, Ethiopia, and Shebah.

⁴ 'I've viewed you with value and in high esteem...
You were glorious and loved [in My eyes].
For you, I traded other peoples,
And for your heads, I gave rulers away.

⁵ 'So, don't be afraid, for I'm with you,
And from the east, I'll lead back your seed...
From the [east and] west, I'll return you.

⁶ 'Then, I will say to the north:
Send them back to the south...
Do not try to restrain them!
Return My sons from your far away lands,
And My daughters from the ends of the earth...
⁷ *Release all those who've been called by My Name!*

'For I made them to glorify Me...
I'm the One who shaped them and made them.
⁸ But I sent them away because they were blind
(They couldn't see, although they had eyes,
And they were deaf, although they had ears),

And I'm the One who gathered their rulers.

⁹ 'So, who will announce all these things...
Who'll explain the things of the past?
Bring on all those who will witness for them,
And they must [now speak the truth]...
Let us hear what they say truly happened!

¹⁰ 'But for Me, you must now testify,' says Jehovah,
'Then I'll be a witness [for you]...
I'll say that you're the servant I've chosen....
But, you must know and believe that I am!

¹¹ 'No other gods came before Me,
And no others will be after Me!
For I'm The God, and other than Me there are none...
I'm the only One who can save!

¹² I've announced, delivered, and berated,
When no alien God was among you.
So, you are the ones who must witness for Me,
That I [alone] am The God!

¹³ 'Even in the most ancient times,
No one could wrest you out of My hands,
And no one could change the things that I did!'

¹⁴ Thus says Jehovah, IsraEl's God...
The Holy One who has paid your ransom:
'I'll send to Babylon on your behalf,
To arouse all those who will carry you off,
And in boats, the Chaldeans will [return] them.

¹⁵ 'So, I am [your] Most Holy God...
IsraEl's defender and king!'

¹⁶ Thus says Jehovah,
The One who made the roads in the seas,
And through mighty waters, made paths...

¹⁷ The One who led chariots and horses,
Along with many strong [men],
To a sleep from which they'll never awaken,
And snuffed them out like wicks made of flax:

¹⁸ 'You can forget the things that came first,
And the ancient things, don't consider.

¹⁹ For {Look!} now I will bring about new things...
And you will all know what they are!

I'll make a road through the desert,
And rivers I'll make through waterless lands.

²⁰ Then all the wild beasts will give praise to Me...

Even ostrich daughters and those that are chained.

'For, into their deserts, I will put water...
Yes, rivers in [all their] dry places,
For My chosen people to drink.

²¹ 'They are the people I purchased...
Those who'll describe all My virtues.

²² 'O IsraEl and [people of] Jacob;
I am the One who has called you,
And I've done nothing at all to wear you out.

²³ 'Yet, you brought Me no sheep or [burnt] offerings...
No sacrifices to glorify Me.
So to offerings, you were not enslaved,
And by frankincense, you were not wearied.

²⁴ 'You offered no silver to Me,
And I didn't desire the sacrificed fat.
So before Me, you stood in your sins,
And in all of your unrighteous ways.

²⁵ 'I am... I'm the One who wiped them away...
All of your lawless ways.

²⁶ Because of Myself, I'll forget all your sins;
But you... you must remember!
So, come and let us discuss them!
Confess to Me of your lawless ways,
So you can once more be righteous!

²⁷ 'Your fathers were the first to have sinned,
And your rulers were lawless against Me...

²⁸ My holy things were defiled by your kings,
So to destruction, I then handed Jacob...
Yes IsraEl, I gave to be scorned!

Chapter 44

¹ Now hear Me, O Jacob My child,
Yes IsraEl, whom I have chosen!

² For Jehovah your God (the One who created and shaped you) said this:

'Don't be afraid, for I'll help you!
O Jacob, My dearly-loved servant...
IsraEl, the one whom I've chosen.

³ 'To your thirsty, I'll provide water,
As they enter a waterless land.
Then I'll place My Breath on your seed,
And I will bless all your children.

⁴ They'll grow like grass near [a river],
And like willows next to a stream.

⁵ 'This one will say, *I'm God's [servant]*;
That one will say, *I am Jacob's*;
Another will write, *I am God's*,
And call himself by IsraEl's name.'

⁶ This was said by our God, Jehovah of armies...
IsraEl's Savior and King:
'I am the first and the last,
And there are no Gods other than Me!

⁷ 'Who else is there that is like Me?
Let him arise and announce it...
Let him stand up and tell,
How man was made in that age!

'And have them tell you the future...

⁸ Don't let them [hide] or wander away!

'Haven't you heard these things long ago...
Didn't I give a report?
So, you are the ones who can now testify,
That other Me, there aren't any gods!

⁹ 'But they failed to listen back then...
Those who carved and shaped worthless things...
Those who did whatever they pleased...
Things that did them no good.

'Why, against themselves, they have testified!
For they didn't see and they didn't know,
That they'd be shamed by such deeds...
When they formed the things that they thought of as gods,
And cast moldings of things that are worthless.

'{Look!} Those sharing in this will be shamed
¹⁰ (Those who shaped gods and carved worthless things),
¹¹ For the places they came from will wither away.

'So, let these dumb ones now gather,
Then stand together and feel some remorse...
Let them all be shamed together!

¹² 'Why, the smith sharpens his tools,
And with a hammer, he works it in coals...
Then he drills holes for its [handles].

'With his mighty arm, he creates it,
As he grows hungry and weak,
Since he doesn't drink any water.

¹³ 'And the carver selects a good piece of wood...
He measures it out and then shapes it,
To make it look like a man.

¹⁴ 'He cuts down an oak tree or cedar,
Then he takes a tree that was planted by Me,
And which I made grow with the rain.

¹⁵ Then part, he burns to get warm;
Part, he burns to bake bread;
And with what remains, he shapes a god,
Before which, he then bows low!

¹⁶ 'He carves it and then bows before it...
Yet, half he burned to cook meat,
To prepare a roast that would fill him.
And as he sits there warming himself,
He says, *Ah, this is so good!*
For I've seen the fire and now I am warm!

¹⁷ Then the rest, he carves into a god,
And to it, he then bows and prays,
Please save me, for you are my god!

¹⁸ 'He doesn't know, nor does he think,
For his eyes are too blind to see,
And he doesn't comprehend with his heart...

¹⁹ Yes, He's just too stupid to see,
That he burned half in a fire to bake bread,
Then over flames, he roasted the meat that he ate...
And with the rest, he made something disgusting,
Before which, he bowed to the ground!

²⁰ 'Know that these [men] have all erred;
For the hearts [of their gods] are just ashes,
And none are able to save them!

'{Look!} Don't say that My right hand has lied,
About the things it's accomplished.

²¹ And, O IsraEl and Jacob;
Don't forget the things that I've done!
For, you [alone] are My servant...
I shaped you and you are My slave!
So IsraEl, do not forget Me!

²² '{Look!} Your lawless deeds, I've wiped out like clouds,
And I've thrown all your sins in the shadows.
So return to Me and I'll ransom you back!'

²³ Now, shout in joy, O you heavens,
For IsraEl's God has shown mercy on you!
And foundations of the earth, blow a trumpet...
Yell in joy, you mountains and hills,
As well as you trees that are there;
For Jehovah's made IsraEl glorious,
And for Jacob, He has [paid the] ransom!

²⁴ So says the Lord (the One who shaped you in the belly, and the One who ransomed you back):

'I am Jehovah... I'm the One who accomplished it all!
I'm the One who stretched out the sky,
And the One who made solid ground!

²⁵ 'I'm the One who wipes away the fulfillment,
Of the omens and signs that men bring from their hearts.
And I cause the intelligent to backtrack,
By making their counsel look stupid.

²⁶ 'I'm the One who causes to be,
Whatever My servants ask their in prayers,
And makes the council of My messengers come true.

'I'm the One who says to JeruSalem,
You will be lived in again...
To the cities of Judah, *You'll be rebuilt...*
And to her desolate places, *I'll raise you!*

²⁷ 'I tell the abyss, *You'll be empty,*
And I say to the rivers, *I'll make you dry.'*

'I'm the One who'll say this to Cyrus:
Think first and then you must do,
All that I tell you to do.
JeruSalem must be rebuilt,
And My [Temple's] foundation must be laid.'

Chapter 45

¹ This is what God is saying to Cyrus
([The one whom He] will anoint...
The one to whose hand He'll grab hold,
And cause the nations to listen):

'[For you], I will rip strength from kings
And no doors or gates will be closed before you!

² I will travel before you,
And before you, I'll level the mountains!
Doors of brass, I will break,
And their iron bars will be shattered.

³ 'I'll give you treasures unfathomed,
And open to you what's concealed and unseen,
So you'll know that I am Jehovah, The God...
The God of IsraEl, who called you by name.

⁴ 'Because of My servant Jacob...
Because of IsraEl, My chosen...
I've accepted you and called you by name,
Although you have never known Me.

⁵ 'I am Jehovah, The God...
And there are no gods other than Me!

'I'm the One who gave you your power,
Before you knew who I was,

⁶ So that those from the sun in the east,
And those where it sets in the west,
Will know there are none next to Me.

'I am Jehovah, The God,
And other than Me, there are none!

⁷ 'I'm the One who prepared light and darkness,
And created both peace and bad [times].

'I'm Jehovah, The God who accomplished it all;

⁸ So be glad you heavens above,
And let the clouds sprinkle justice...
Let the ground arise and grow mercy,
And together, let justice burst forth!

'I'm the Lord who made all there is,
⁹ And what excellent things I did make,
As though it was potter's clay.

'Will those who plow, plow the land in one day?
And will the clay ask this of the potter:
*What can you do, since you do not work,
Nor do you have any hands?*

¹⁰ 'Woe to those who dare to ask of their fathers,
Why did you sire me?
And those who ask of their mothers,
Why did you give birth to me?'

¹¹ Thus says Israel's Most Holy Lord...
The One who created all things:
'Ask Me concerning My sons,
And about the works of My hands...
Yes, just go on and ask Me!

¹² 'I made the earth and [put] man upon it,
And I established the skies with My hands.

I'm the One who instructed the stars,
¹³ And the One who raised a just king.

'I'm the One who made his ways straight,
So that he would rebuild My city,
And allow the return of My people
(But not for a ransom or gifts).'
So says Jehovah of Armies.

¹⁴ Thus says Jehovah of Armies:

'I'll wear out Egypt before you,
And Ethiopians and Sabean traders...
You'll pass over men who were proud before you,
And they will then be your servants.

'Thereafter, they'll follow behind you,
Shackled and walking in chains.
I will hand them over to you,
And before you, they must then bow.

'To you, they will pray [as though] you're a god,
And to them, there won't be another.

¹⁵ Yet, [I am] a God whom you've never known...
IsraEl's God and your Savior.

¹⁶ 'So your enemies will be shamed and remorseful...
Before they're led off in dishonor.

'O islands, dedicate yourselves to My [cause],
¹⁷ For IsraEl will be freed by Jehovah,
And they'll [remain that way] through the age...
Through the ages, they'll not feel shame or regret.'

¹⁸ This was what was said by Jehovah,
The One who created the heavens...
Who [formed] the earth and made it distinct...
Who did not leave it empty or void,
But shaped it as a dwelling [for man]):

'I'm Jehovah... and other than Me, there are none.

¹⁹ I have never spoken in secret,
Nor explained it in the earth's darkest places.
And I never told Jacob's seed,
That they should seek what is foolish!

'I'm Jehovah, the One who speaks justly,
And the One who announces the truth.

²⁰ So, you should all gather and come here...
Yes, come and let's meet together,
You who've been saved from the nations!

'Yet they still did not understand...
These one who [cut] wood and shaped it,
Then prayed to gods that can't save them.

²¹ 'Let all the announcers approach,
So the whole congregation may know,
Who it was that accomplished these things.

'From ancient times, it has been announced,
That I am [Jehovah], The God!
There are no others who are righteous,

And there are no others who can save...
Yes, other than Me, there are none!

²² 'So, turn to Me and I'll rescue
All those who've been scattered to the ends of the earth...
I'm The God and there aren't any others!

²³ 'I've sworn an oath by Myself,
That what comes from My mouth will be righteous...
None of My words will be twisted.

²⁴ 'So to Me, every knee should bend low,
And by Me, every tongue should swear oaths.

²⁵ Justice and glory should be offered before Me,
And those leaving Jehovah should be shamed.

²⁶ For, IsraEl's seed must be righteous,
And [speak] gloriously of their [most holy] God.'

Chapter 46

¹ 'Bel has fallen and Dagon is broken;
For their images were bound to wild beasts and cattle,
And the load proved to be just too heavy,
So they tired and fainted from hunger.

² Thus, they were unable to save them in war,
And they too were taken as captives.

³ 'Listen to Me, O house of Jacob,
And the rest of you, O house of IsraEl...
Those whom I lifted from the belly,
And whom I've corrected since childhood,

⁴ Until the time that you grew:

'I am and [will be] until you grow old...

I am and I've had to endure you.

But because I made [you], I've spare [you];

And I'll again remake you and save you!

⁵ 'To whom can I be compared?
{Look!} Contrive [and answer], O you who mislead.

⁶ 'You are those who take gold from a bag,
And weigh out silver on the yoke of your scales.
Then you hire smiths to hand-make your idols,
Before which, you bow to your faces.

⁷ 'If you put them on your shoulders, they move;
But when they're put down, they just sit there...
There's no way that they can move by themselves,
And if you should yell, they can't hear you,
So, they are unable to save you!

⁸ 'Consider these things and then moan,

And change your minds, O you the misled.
Yes, turn around in your hearts!
9 Remember what happened before this age came!

'I am the only true God,
And other than Me, there are none.
10 I can tell what will happen before it takes place,
And before things come to an end.

'I said that My purpose will stand,
And all that I've planned, I will do.
11 So I've summoned the [eagle] from the far east,
To do the things that I've spoken and planned...
I made him, I'll lead him, and he'll do it...
I'm the One who'll send him and prosper his ways.

12 'Hear Me, you breakers of hearts...
Yes, you who are so far from justice!
13 I'm the One who sent you My justice,
And it has never been that far away.

'So I'll not be slow about saving you.
For I'm the One who appointed Zion to be
IsraEl's savior and glory!'

Chapter 47

1 'So, get down and sit on the ground,
You virgin daughter of Babylon...
Yes, you should sit down on the ground!
For you won't have a throne anymore,
O virgin daughter of Chaldea...
Delicate and soft, you'll no longer be called.

2 'Get a millstone and start grinding flour...
Remove the veil from your face,
Then expose your gray hairs and uncover your legs,
For, you'll use them when you must cross your rivers...

3 When your shame and scorn will be seen.

'I'll remove all the righteous from you,
And I'll no longer be handing men over to you.
4 For their Savior's Name is Jehovah of Armies...
He's IsraEl's Most Holy One!

5 'So, sit down and then be stabbed through...
O Chaldea's daughter, enter the darkness!
For you'll not be called a strong kingdom again!

6 'I was provoked by My people,
So My inheritance, I let you defile...
I gave them into your hands;

But you showed no mercy upon them.

'You oppressed all their old men,
And made them work hard under yokes.

⁷ Then you said, *I'll dominate them through the age.*

'Yet, in your hearts, you had failed
To understand what had happened.
And how it works out in the end.

⁸ Hear [what I'm saying], O delicate one...

Yes, you who are now sitting down...

The one who so easily yields...

The one who says in her heart:

I am, and there will be no others!

For, I'll never sit as a widow,

And I will never know sorrow!

⁹ 'But, these two things will happen to you,

Suddenly and in just one day:

· You will be childless and widowed

· And they'll instantly come upon you,

Despite your sorcery and enchantments.

¹⁰ 'In your own wicked ways, you've trusted and said,

I am, and there aren't any others!

But know and understand this:

Your whoring will soon bring you shame,

Just because you have said in your heart,

I am, and there aren't any others!

¹¹ 'Instant destruction will come upon you,

And you will fall into a cesspool,

Where you'll see misery and never get clean.

Yes, sudden destruction will come upon you;

But you'll not be aware 'til it happens!

¹² 'Now, stand there in your enchantments,

And in the witchcraft you've learned since your youth.

Then, see if it does any good,

¹³ For your magic words have grown tired.

'Let your astrologers who gaze at the skies

(Yes, those who examine the stars),

Now arise and announce what's coming to you!

¹⁴ '{Look!}' Like torches of sticks, your people will burn...

No way will they save their lives from the flames.

Then, you'll be forced to sit on the coals

¹⁵ Of those who looked to you for their aid.

'You've worn yourself out with the traffic of youth,

And now that the men have all wandered away,
There will be no one to save you!

Chapter 48

Note that much of the following prophecy is not actually being spoken by God but by 'the Lord,' whom we assume to be the person who later became known as Jesus, since some of these prophecies are about him. For this reason, we have not capitalized the personal pronouns in the places where we think he was speaking.

¹ Pay attention, O house of Jacob;
Yes, you who are called by IsraEl's name;
You who've come from the waters of Judah;
You who swear oaths by IsraEl's God;

² You who've forgotten justice and truth;
You who view your city as holy,
And you who lean upon IsraEl's God,
Whose Name is Jehovah of Armies!

³ I'm saying the same things that I've said before...
I'm saying the same things that came from my mouth...
The things that you heard and then happened...
The things that I spoke and then suddenly were!

⁴ I know that you are hard [people]...
That the nerves in your necks are like iron,
And your heads are [as solid as] bronze.

⁵ I told you in the past what would happen,
Long before it became.
I said it loudly, so you couldn't say,
This was done by my idols,
Or, My carvings and idols foretold it.

⁶ You heard it, but you didn't comprehend,
And now that I'm telling you new things,
You haven't spoken a word in reply.

⁷ For the things that I've said will all happen,
Won't be the same as they were in the past...
They're not like they were long ago,
Or the same as I told you before,
So you can't say that you already know.

⁸ These are things that you haven't known,
Since the time that I opened your ears long ago,
And which I knew that you'd disregard.
For, since you were called from the belly,
You've continued in your lawless ways.

⁹ Because of my name, I'm now sending my rage...
My noble deeds, I'll be bringing upon you...
Yet, I won't completely wipe you away.

¹⁰ '{Look!}' With silver, I've never bartered for you...
But I saved you from poverty's furnace.

¹¹ And now, because of myself, I will act...
Because my name is being profaned,
And my glory, I'll give to no others!

¹² 'Hear me, O Jacob and IsraEl...
Yes you, the ones whom I've called...
I'm from the beginning and into the ages!

¹³ 'The foundation of the earth, I laid with my hands,
And with my right hand, I fixed the skies.
So I'll call to them and they'll gather...

¹⁴ They'll assemble and listen together!

'Now, I will speak of the things,
That I will bring against Babylon,
Because of my love for you...
For I'll lift away the seed of Chaldea!

¹⁵ 'I'm the one who spoke and called out to you...
I'm the one who prospered your ways.

¹⁶ So lean your ears toward me and now listen!

'What I said long ago wasn't secret,
For I was there when it happened.
But now, I've been sent by Jehovah, the Lord,
Along with His [Holy] Spirit.

¹⁷ And thus says Jehovah, your Savior...
IsraEl's Most Holy One:

*'I am Jehovah your God,
I'm the One who showed you the right ways to go.*

¹⁸ *And if you'd obeyed My Commandments,
Your peace would have flowed like a river,
And your righteous ways as the waves of the seas.*

¹⁹ *'Your seed would have been like the sands [of the seas] ...
Those from your bellies, as the dust on the ground.
You would not have been destroyed,
And your names wouldn't have been erased.*

²⁰ *'But after these things, you'll leave Babylon...
Yes, you will flee from Chaldea!
So in joy, announce this out loud,
So that all will know what is coming!*

*Yes, report to the ends of the earth,
That Jehovah will save Jacob, His servant!*

²¹ *And when he gets thirsty in his trek through the desert,
He'll bring them water out of a rock!*

'For I'll split the rock and water will flow,

*And then, My people will drink it...
²² But the godless will not rejoice over this,
Says Jehovah, [your God].'*

Chapter 49

Note that much of the following prophecy is not actually being spoken by God but by 'the Lord,' whom we assume to be the person who later became known as Jesus, since some of these prophecies are about him. So, we have not capitalized the personal pronouns in the places where we think he was speaking.

¹ *'O islands; listen to this!
Yes, pay attention O nations;
For after some time, it will happen, says Jehovah.*

*'From the belly of my mother, He called me by name,
² And He made my mouth a sharp sword.
In the protection of His hand, He then hid me;
Yes, I'm the one He selected,
As the favored arrow in His quiver.
³ Then He said, *You are My servant!*
And through you, I'll be glorified.*

⁴ *'But I replied, I'm useless and tired...
So, it will all be in vain,
Since I've wasted my strength to gain nothing.
Why, I've been judged by Jehovah,
And all my works [were examined] by God.*

⁵ *'But now, said Jehovah,
(The One who shaped me as His servant from the belly):
You must collect Jacob for Me,
So that all of IsraEl is returned.*

*'He said that before Him, I'll be glorified,
And in my God, I'll gain strength.*

⁶ *He said:
To be called My servant is something that's great;
For you'll bring back all Jacob's tribes,
And return the scattered to IsraEl.*

*'{Look!} I've made a Sacred Agreement with them,
To be a race that'll serve as a light to the nations,
And bring salvation to the ends of the earth.*

⁷ *'Jehovah, IsraEl's God (the One who brings salvation) said this:
You must treat [this person] as holy,
Who views his life as having no value...
This one whom the nations will hate,
And be abhorred by the servants of rulers.*

*'But, kings will see him and rulers will stand;
Then, all will bow low before him,*

*Because, this Lord is trustworthy...
He's My chosen and IsraEl's most holy!*

*'This most holy of IsraEl can be trusted,
For, he is the one I've selected, ⁸ says Jehovah.*

*'So, at the time I've appointed,
I'll pay attention to you,
And save you in the Day of Salvation.*

*'For, I'm the one by whom you were formed,
And now I've made an agreement with the nations,
To reestablish your land...
To inherit an inheritance that's been wiped away.*

*⁹ 'So, tell those in chains, they must leave,
And tell those in the darkness to come to [the light]!
For in all your paths, there'll be grazing,
And along all your roads, there'll be pastures.*

*¹⁰ 'There you won't be hungry or thirsty,
And you won't be burned by the sun or hot winds.
For My Merciful One will send comfort,
And lead you beside springs of water.*

*¹¹ He'll flatten the mountains that stand in your way,
And the roads will serve as your pastures.*

*¹² '{Look!}' [My people] will come from a distance...
Some from the north,
Some from the west,
And others from the land of the Persians.*

*¹³ 'So, be glad, O you heavens,
And cry out in joy, O you earth!
O mountains, be splitting with glee!
For, God has shown mercy on His people,
And to the meek, He's brought comfort.*

*¹⁴ 'In Zion, these words have been said:
By Jehovah, I was abandoned;
By the Lord, I had been forgotten!*

*¹⁵ 'But Jehovah replied and said this:
Will a woman forget her own child...
Will she forget to show mercy,
On the one that sprang from her belly?*

*'Yet, even if a woman could forget;
I will never forget you.*

*¹⁶ For {Look!} I've sketched your walls on My hands,
So you are always before Me.*

¹⁷ 'Thus, what was demolished will soon be rebuilt,

And those who destroyed you will soon be destroyed.

¹⁸ 'Look up, look around, and see it with your eyes!
Look... they've all been gathered and returned!'

*'As I live, says Jehovah;
You'll wear them as ornaments on your clothes...
You'll wear them as the jewels of a bride.*

¹⁹ *'Now, all your desolate places
(Those that had once been destroyed,
As well as those which had fallen),
Will then become too confining
For all of those who will dwell there;
Since, those who swallowed you down,
Will then have been sent far away.*

²⁰ 'Then those [people] will say in your ears:
*This place is too cramped for the sons we had lost;
So, make us new places in which we can dwell!*

²¹ 'And then you will ask in your hearts:
*Who made me a father to them?
For I'm childless, widowed, and an unwelcome stranger.
But these... who told me to feed them?
For, I had been left all alone.
But these... from where did I get them?'*

²² 'Look, says Jehovah, the Lord;
*I'm lifting My hand to the nations,
And to the islands, I'm raising My sign.
Then they'll raise your sons to their chests,
And your daughters, they'll lift on their shoulders.*

²³ *'Their kings will then serve as your [butlers],
And their queens will be your wet nurses.
Before you, they'll bow to the ground,
And they'll lick the dust from your feet.*

*'Then you'll know that I am Jehovah,
And those waiting for Me will never be shamed.*

²⁴ 'Can someone take loot from a giant,
And will the captured be saved without ransom?

²⁵ No, for thus says Jehovah:
*If someone can capture a giant,
He can take all the things that he owns...
He can safely take from the strong.*

*'Now, I'm the One who is pleading your case,
And I'm the One who will rescue your sons.*

²⁶ *So, those who oppress you will eat their own flesh,*

And the new wine they drink will be their own blood.

'Then, they will get drunk and all flesh will see,

That I am Jehovah, your Savior...

The One who gives Jacob his strength.'

Chapter 50

Note that much of the following prophecy is not actually being spoken by God but by 'the Lord,' whom we assume to be the person who later became known as Jesus, since some of these prophecies are about him. So, we have not capitalized the personal pronouns in the places where we think he was speaking.

¹ And then The Lord said this:

'What kind of divorce certificate is this,
By which I sent you back to your mother...
Yes, whom do I owe that I've sold you?

'{Look!} You were sold because of your sins,
And I sent you home to your mother,
Because of your lawless ways!

² 'Why, when I was here, was there no man?
But when I called to you, no one replied.

'And now, aren't my hands strong enough,
To rescue you and return you...
Am I unable to save you?

'Look! I can scold and wipe out the seas,
And I can desolate rivers,
Leaving their fish without water,
So they will die in their thirst!

³ 'With darkness, I can clothe skies,
And wrap them in robes made of sackcloth!'

(A Messianic Prophecy).

⁴ 'Jehovah gave me a tongue to instruct,
And a knowledge of when to speak words.
Morning after morning, He stood there by me,
And gave me an ear so I'd listen...

⁵ [He] opened my ears to instructions,
And I didn't resist or argue with Him.

⁶ 'So my back, I gave to be whipped,
And my jaws, [I left open] to slaps.
Then, to shame those who were spitting on me,
I did not turn my face.

⁷ 'For the Lord, Jehovah, is my helper,
And for this, I won't let them shame me.
So I set my face as solid as rock,
That no way, would I bring [Him] dishonor.

⁸ 'For, the One declaring me righteous is close...
And by Him alone am I judged.

'So, which [of you] would now judge me?
Let him [arise and] oppose me!
Yes, who is the one that would judge me?
Let him come and resist me!

⁹ 'Look! Jehovah will come to my aid;
So, who can do harm to me?
{Look!} For like robes, they will grow older,
And then they'll be eaten by moths!

¹⁰ 'Which of you fear Jehovah?
Let him obey the voice of His servant!
And may those who travel in darkness
(Those for whom there's no light),
Yield to the name of the Lord,
And lean upon God for support!

¹¹ '{Look!} You've lit a fire and helped the flames grow;
Then, you were [drawn] to its light...
Toward the very same flame that you kindled!
It's because of me that this happened,
And thereafter, you'll spend nights in anguish!'

Chapter 51

Continuation of a Messianic Prophecy.

¹ 'Listen to me, O you who'd be righteous...
Those who are seeking Jehovah;
Look to the rock that you've quarried,
And into the pit of the well that you've dug!

² Look to AbraHam, your father,
And to SarAh, who bore you!

'Though he was just [flesh], I once called to him...
Yes, I loved him and blest him,
And I prospered his [ways].

³ 'So, I will bring comfort to Zion...
To your desolate places, I will [bring rest]...
A paradise of God, I will make them.

'Then your western lands will be gardens,
And those dwelling there will be happy...
They will be leaping for joy,
And [raising] their voices in praise.

⁴ 'Listen... yes, hear me, my people;
And kings, give ear to the things that I say!
For, I will then send you my laws,

And my judgments will bring light to the nations.

⁵ 'My justice will come to them swiftly,
And my saving light will quickly arrive,
Then they will put hope in my arm.
Even the islands will wait upon me,
And in my arm, they will trust.

⁶ 'Lift your eyes to the skies,
Then look to the ground underneath you!
For the skies [will be filled with] smoke,
And the earth will wear out like old clothes,
Then, those who live there will die.
But, my salvation will last through the age...
Theres no way that my justice will fail!

⁷ 'Hear me, O you who know justice!
For you're a people who have my laws in your hearts.
So don't fear the scorning of men,
And don't let their bad words defeat you!

⁸ 'Though clothes will wear out with time,
And wool will be eaten by moths;
My justice lasts through the ages,
And my salvation is through generations.

⁹ 'Wake up... wake up, O JeruSalem,
And put on the strength of your arm!
Wake up as you did in past days,
Like the generations that lived in past ages!

'Haven't you [people] been dug up,
And ripped apart by the dragon?

¹⁰ Aren't you the ones for whom I parted the sea
(All that abundant, deep water),
And then put a road through its depths,
To create a ford for those being saved...

¹¹ Those for whom I paid a ransom?

'It's by Jehovah that they'll be returned,
And they'll come to Zion with gladness...
Through the ages, they'll be leaping for joy!

'Upon their heads, there'll be blessings,
And with great joy, they'll be overcome,
Since their anguish, greif, and moaning is gone.

¹² 'I am... I'm the one who brings comfort!
So, know who it is that you should fear,
Because men and their sons will dry up like grass!

¹³ 'For, you have forgotten your Maker, God...

The One who created the skies,
And who laid the foundations of the earth!
You should fear Him throughout all your days,
Before the oppressor [arrives],
Who will then carry you off!

'[Don't fear] the rage of your oppressor;
¹⁴ For, when it comes to bringing salvation,
[Your God] won't stop or waste time.
¹⁵ He's the One who jostles the seas...
The One who makes its waves roar...
His Name is Jehovah of Armies.

¹⁶ 'He's the One who puts His words in your mouths,
And shelters you inside His hand.
He's the One who established the heavens,
And who founded the earth...
Who said, *You're My people*, to Zion,

¹⁷ 'Wake up... arise, O JeruSalem...
Yes, you who'll drink rage from the cup,
That comes from the hand of Jehovah!
Take the blows from that cup,
And drink them until they're all gone!

¹⁸ 'No one else gave comfort to the children you bore...
No others held the hands of the sons that you raised.
¹⁹ So, when all these bad things happen to you,
Who else will share in your grief...
When downfall, defeat, and hunger arrive,
Along with the edge of the sword;
Who else will offer you comfort?

²⁰ 'At that time, your sons will all be confused,
And like half-boiled beets, they'll sleep in the streets...
They'll feel the rage of the Lord,
And before Jehovah, they'll faint.

²¹ 'So, you who've been humbled should listen...
Yes, you who are drunk, but not from the wine!
²² For thus says [Jehovah your] God...
The One who is judging His people:

*'{Look!} I've taken the cup of blows from your hands,
Which is the cup of My rage,
So now you must no longer drink it.*

²³ *'For then, I'll put it into the hands,
Of those who are doing you wrong...
Of those who are humbling you...
Of those telling your souls to bow as they pass...*

*Of those who've cut all your things to the ground,
And laid them outside for all who pass by.'*

Chapter 52

Continuation of Messianic Prophecy.

¹ 'Wake up... yes, wake up, O Zion!
O Zion, put on your strength!
O holy city of JeruSalem,
Put on [all of] your glory!
For the uncircumcised and unclean,
Will no longer be passing through you.

² 'So, shake off the dust and arise...
Sit down and remove the chains from your neck,
O captive daughter of Zion!

³ For, thus says Jehovah [your God]:
*Without a price, you were sold;
So you won't be ransomed with silver.*

⁴ 'Thus says Jehovah, the Lord:
*My people once went down to Egypt,
And stayed for some time in that place;
Then, to Assyria, they were taken by force;
⁵ So, do you know why you were sent there?'*

Then the Lord told me this:
'Since my people were taken without payment,
[All should] wonder and shriek!
For, this was said by Jehovah:

*'It's because of you people that My Name was blasphemed,
Among all the rest of the nations.*

⁶ *But, you will again know My Name...
Yes, in that day, you'll know who I am!
For the one who is speaking to you will arrive!*

⁷ 'As a time of beauty on the mountains,
And as welcome as feet announcing good news...
As joyful as a message of peace,
Or when good things are announced...
Is the time that I'll bring salvation to you,
And your God will again reign on Zion.

⁸ 'Then the voices of the guards will be raised,
And all their sounds will be joyful.
For they'll see it happen with their own eyes...
When Jehovah shows mercy on Zion.

⁹ 'Then JeruSalem's desolate places,
Will applaud altogether in joy;

Because Jehovah's shown mercy on them...
He's brought salvation to JeruSalem!

¹⁰ 'Jehovah will bare His great holy arm,
Before all of the nations,
And it will be seen to the ends of the earth...
This salvation that comes from our God.

¹¹ 'So, leave... get out... get away!
And stop touching the thing that's unclean!
Get out of its midst and stay far away,
You who bear the Lord's [sacred things]!

¹² 'For you'll leave without any trouble,
And as you go, you won't have to run,
Since your Lord will travel before you,
And IsraEl's God will cover your rear.

¹³ '{Look!} My servant will then understand,
For he'll be glorified and exalted...
He'll be raised exceedingly high,
¹⁴ To the amazement of many.

'Though men will despise his appearance,
And his glory will be hated by sons of men;
¹⁵ The nations will wonder at him,
And at him, [their] kings [will cover] their mouths.
For, things untold, they'll see about him...
Things they've not heard or understood.'

Chapter 53

Continuation of Messianic Prophecy.

¹ 'O Jehovah;
Who has trusted the report of the Lord,
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² 'We've announced that a boy has appeared before Him...
As a root in land that is dry.
He doesn't have glory or looks...
We've seen him, and he doesn't have beauty.

³ 'He's appeared as one who's dishonored,
And by sons of men, he seemed lacking.
He's a man [who was born] for disaster,
And he knows how to bear the illness of men.

'He turned his face in dishonor,
So he wasn't [thought of as great].

⁴ But, he has carried our sins;
And because of us, he came to know grief.

'He came here to know misery...
For calamity and ill treatment by God.
⁵ He was wounded because of our sins,
And for our lawless deeds, he was bruised.

'[To bring us] peace, he was whipped,
And by his stripes, we were healed.
⁶ For like sheep, we have all strayed,
And in our own ways, we have wandered.

'So [God] sent him to [cover] our sins;
⁷ And when evil was inflicted upon him,
He did not open his mouth...
He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And like a lamb with no voice, before shearers,
He did not open his mouth.

⁸ 'In humiliation, his justice was taken away...
Who can speak of the badness of that generation?
His life was lifted away from the land,
And he was led to his death,
For the lawless ways of My people.

⁹ 'Tough they made his grave with the wicked,
Among the rich, [he was buried].
For he had committed no lawless deeds,
Nor was treachery found in his mouth.

¹⁰ 'It was [God's] Will to cleanse him [with stripes].
But [because he] was brought as an offering for sins,
Your seed will see very long lives.

¹¹ It was the Will of Jehovah...
It was by His hand that He would remove,
The misery that his life came to know,
In order to show him the light,
To help him to understand,
And to prove this righteous one just...
This good one who would serve for many,
So as to bear all their sins.

¹² 'For this, he inherited many,
And he'll share his spoils with the mighty,
Because his soul was handed to death,
And he was counted as one of the lawless.
The sins of many, he bore...
He was handed over for their lawless deeds.

Chapter 54

¹ 'So be glad, all you who are sterile,

And yell, O you who did not give birth...
O you, the one without birth pains!
For the children of the barren will be many...
Yes, more than those who have [their own] man!
For Jehovah spoke and said this:

² *'Widen the place for your tent,
And hang hide coverings over [its walls]!
Don't scrimp... take plenty of land,
And then you should strengthen your tent pegs...
³ Spread out [your tent] to the right and the left!
For your seed will inherit the nations,
And in their empty cities, they'll dwell.*

⁴ *'Don't fear that you've been disgraced,
Or feel ashamed that you have been scolded;
For you'll soon forget all this shame,
And the scorn of the widows will pass,
⁵ Because the Lord has remade you...
Jehovah of Armies is His great Name.
You've been saved by IsraEl's God,
And He will be called the God of the earth.*

⁶ *'[He] didn't call you as a forsaken woman...
One broken-hearted one and detested since youth.
For, this is what was said by your God:*

⁷ *'I abandoned you for a while;
But [now], I'll show you great mercy.
⁸ In rage, I turned My face for a while,
And now ages of mercy, I'll show you,
Said Jehovah, your Savior.*

⁹ *'This has long been My plan,
Since the waters fell upon Noah.
For the oath that I swore toward the earth at that time,
Was not to send My rage against it again...
Since I didn't want to make you fear Me again.*

¹⁰ *'So your mountains [will never] be changed,
And your hills will not be taken away.
My mercy on you will not fail,
And My Agreement for peace will not be removed.
Yes, that's how Jehovah spoke kindly of you.'*

¹¹ *'Though I've humbled you and confused you,
And you've not received any comfort from Me
{Look!} I've prepared garnets as your building stones,
And sapphires for your foundations.*

¹² *I'll make your parapets of jasper;*

*With crystal stones, I will build your gates;
And I'll use the choicest of [gems] for your doors.*

¹³ *'Then all your sons will be taught about God,
And much peace will be sent to your children.*

¹⁴ *You'll be established on justice,
Far away from all the unrighteous.
For then, you'll have nothing to fear,
And trembling will never approach you.*

¹⁵ *{Look!} Because of Me, strangers will come,
And with you, they will then stay;
For they'll run to you as their refuge.*

¹⁶ *{Look!} I did not make you a forge to blow coals,
Nor did I purchase you as a tool to do work.
For corruption or destruction, you were not made;
¹⁷ So no weapons that they bring against you will win.*

*'For the voices of those who've condemned you will end...
This is what God's servants will inherit.
Before Me, you will be found righteous, says Jehovah.'*

Chapter 55

¹ *'Come to the water, you thirsty,
And you without money, come buy and eat...
Yes, come here and buy without money,
Even fat calves and best wines!*

² *'Why place money higher than bread...
Your efforts into things that won't fill you?
Listen to Me and eat good things...
Yes, your souls will find joy among good things!*

³ *'So, pay close attention with your ears,
And then, come walk in My ways...
Yes, come and listen to Me,
And your souls will receive what is good! !*

*I'll proclaim an Agreement with him through the age,
For the sacred, trusted things of [King] David.*

⁴ *{Look!} I'll seat him as a proof to the nations...
As a ruler and signal to the peoples.*

⁵ *{Look!} Nations you don't know will call upon him...
Those you don't know will seek refuge in him,
Because of your God, Jehovah...
Because of IsraEl's Most Holy One...
For, He will then glorify you.*

⁶ *'So, you must search for Jehovah,
And when you find Him, you should call out to Him,*

And He will then draw close to you.

*⁷ 'The irreverent should leave their bad ways,
And the lawless should abandon all their evil plans!
For, they return to Jehovah,
Then our God will show mercy upon them...
He'll even forgive their worst sins!*

*⁸ 'Your plans are not like My plans,
And your ways are not like My ways, says Jehovah.*

*⁹ As far as the heavens are over the earth,
Are My ways higher than your ways,
And the things that you think, from My mind.*

*¹⁰ 'For as rain and snow fall from the skies,
And don't return until they soak the ground,
And the earth brings forth and sprouts [plants],
To give seeds to the planter and bread as his food;*

*¹¹ So are the words that come from My mouth...
To Me, they won't return empty,
Until they complete whatever I wish...
So I'll prosper your ways in ways I see fit.*

*¹² 'Then, you will travel in joy,
And you will be led out in gladness.
For the mountains and hills will be leaping,
And receive you in favor and care,
As the trees in the fields clap their branches.*

*¹³ 'Instead of brush piles, cypress will grow;
And instead of briars, myrtles will sprout.
Then the Name of the Lord will be known,
And through the ages, it will serve as a sign,
Which will never come to an end.*

Chapter 56

¹ Jehovah says:

*'Guard right decisions and justice,
For salvation from Me has approached...
Yes, you'll soon see mercy from Me.*

*² 'Blest is the man who is doing these things,
As well as the one who is holding them [dear]...
The one who is guarding the Sabbaths,
And is careful not to profane them,
As well as the one who keeps watch on his hands,
So he doesn't do unrighteous things.*

*³ 'Don't let the foreigners say
(Those who've come to be joined to the Lord),*

Jehovah has set me apart from His people.
And may the eunuch not say,
I am just a dry tree!

⁴ For, thus says Jehovah to eunuchs,
And to those who are keeping His Sabbaths...
To all who choose to do as He wills,
And hold to His Sacred Agreement:

⁵ I'll give you something better than daughters and sons.
From My [Temple] and famous walled [city],
I'll give you a name through the ages...
[A name] that will never expire.

⁶ I'll give it to those foreign peoples,
Who come to be joined to the Lord...
To those who love him and bow to his name...
To those women and men who will serve him,
And to all who are keeping My Sabbaths
(To those who do not profane them),
And to those who hold on to My Sacred Agreement.

⁷ 'To My Holy Mountain, I'll bring them,
And I'll give them joy in My House of Prayer.
I'll accept the burnt offerings they bring,
And what they sacrifice on My Altar.
At that time, My [Temple] will be called,
A House of Prayer for all Nations.'

⁸ This was all said by Jehovah...
The One who'll return IsraEl's scattered.
He'll call them for an assembly,

⁹ To which the wild beasts are invited...
Yes beasts of the woods will go there and eat!

¹⁰ See how they all have been blinded...
Those dumb dogs who don't know how to bark...
Those dreaming of beds and those fond of slumber...

¹¹ Those impudent dogs with unfulfilled lives.

For they're wicked and they don't understand,
And they've followed the ways that they've chosen,
To gain an unfair advantage...

Those who say, ¹² 'Come here and get wine;
Then, let's all drink 'til we're drunk.
For tomorrow will be a much better day!'

Chapter 57

¹ 'See how the righteous ones perish,
Because no one keeps watch on their hearts.

So the righteous are lifted away,
And no one now gives it a thought.

'The just are being lifted away,
Before the face of injustice.

² And although they'll find peace in their graves,
They've been lifted away from your midst,

³ Then sons [of the] lawless are led before Me...
The seeds of adulterers and whores!

⁴ 'In what have you found such enjoyment?
Against whom have you opened your mouths,
To say wicked things with your tongues?
Aren't you the sons of destruction...
A seed without any honor?

⁵ 'Aren't you the ones who call out to idols,
Under all the bushes and trees?
Aren't you the ones who slay your own babies,
Between the rocks in the valleys?

⁶ 'Yes, this is your portion... this is your lot;
For to [idols], you've poured out drink offerings,
And to them, you've brought sacrifices...
Don't think that such things would provoke Me to rage?

⁷ 'You make your beds on the tops of high hills,
And then haul your sacrifices up there.

⁸ Behind your doors, you place [idols]...
Did you think that if you left Me, you'd prosper?

'You've loved all those with whom you have slept...

⁹ Those with whom you've done whoring...
And how many [lovers] you've left behind!

'You've sent ambassadors across all your borders;
And for this, you've been [cursed] to the place of the dead.

¹⁰ But though you've tired of your many [bad] ways,
You've never said, *I'll repent!*

Yes, you have done all these bad things;
And for this, you can't come to beg before Me!

¹¹ 'You've held sacred those things that you fear,
And against Me, you have all lied...

You've never stopped to consider,
Or to think of Me in your hearts!

¹² So, I will report your [in]justice,
And your evils won't benefit you.

¹³ 'Then, in your [time of] affliction,
And when you must yell out [for aid],
You should call for [your idols] to save you!

For the wind will take all your things,
And a gale will blow them away.

'But those who choose to hold onto Me,
Are those who'll inherit [the] land,
As well as My Holy Mountain.

¹⁴ 'Then, at that time, I will say:
Come and smooth out the roads;
Remove the rocks from My people's paths!

¹⁵ Thus says the Most High God in the heights...
The One who rests in His Most Holy Place...
That place where He dwells through the ages,
In His Most-Holy of Holies...
Jehovah is His [great] Name.
He's the One who is patient with the meek,
And gives life to those who have broken hearts:

¹⁶ 'I'll not punish you [again] through this age,
Nor will I remain angry with you.
I will pour My Spirit upon you;
For I'm the One who gave you your breath!

¹⁷ 'Because of their sins, I grieved them a while...
I turned My face and I struck them...
I brought them grief and they traveled in gloom.

¹⁸ 'But I saw all their ways and I healed them;
I gave them comfort... comfort that's true.

¹⁹ I brought peace upon peace,
To those who are near and those far away.'

And Jehovah said:

'As the result, I will heal them!

²⁰ But the unrighteous will roll like the waves,
And they'll be unable to rest...

²¹ There'll be no peace for the godless,' said God.

Chapter 58

¹ 'Yell it out loud... don't hold it back!
Raise your voices like trumpets,
And announce to My people their sins...
Tell the house of Jacob how lawless they've been!

² 'But the day will come when they'll seek Me,
And wish to know all My ways.
For they'll be a righteous people again,
And they won't abandon the justice of God.

'Even now, they ask for My righteous decisions,
And they desire to come closer to God.

³ They have repeatedly asked Me:
*Why haven't You looked when we fasted...
Why didn't You notice when we humbled our souls?*

*'[But, this is what you should tell them]:
On the days that you fast, you do as you please...
You still goad those who are under your hands.*

⁴ *'You fast [to win] lawsuits and battles,
As you beat the humble with your fists.
So, why are you fasting to Me,
In the ways that you're doing today...
Just to hear the sounds of your voices?*

⁵ *'I never chose fasts for such reasons;
For, when you fast, you should humble your souls.
So, don't bend your neck in a crook,
Or wear sackcloth with ashes beneath you;
For, when you call a fast for such reasons,
I just will not accept it.'*

⁶ *'Jehovah says:
I've not asked you to fast for such things.
I've asked you to loosen the bonds of injustice,
And to leave the perverseness of violent exchanges.*

*'Send away freely, those who've been wronged,
And tear up your unrighteous [contracts]!*

⁷ *Break bread with those who are hungry,
And accept the homeless and poor in your homes!*

*'If you see someone naked, give him some clothes!
And concerning the seed of your family;
You should dislike them no more!*

⁸ *And then, the next morning, light will break through,
And the things that need cures will be gone.'*

*'[If you should choose to do all these things],
The righteousness will travel with you,
And the glory of God will protect you.*

⁹ *When you call to Jehovah, He'll listen,
And while you're yet speaking, He'll say, Here I am!'*

*'If you'll get rid of your evil plans,
Then stretch out your hands and not grumble...*

¹⁰ *If you will open your hearts,
And provide bread for the hungry,
So the souls of the humble are filled;
Your light will arise from the darkness,
And your darkness will be as midday;*

¹¹ *Your God will always be with you,*

And your souls will see the things you desire.

'Like well-watered gardens, your bones will grow fat,
And you'll be like springs in a desert.

¹² Your desolate places will all be rebuilt...
For generations of generations, their foundations will last.
You'll be called a builder of walls,
And there won't be any stones in your roads.

¹³ 'If you'll turn your feet toward the Sabbaths,
And not do as you wish on this holy day;
If you'll call the Sabbaths delightful
(Something that's holy to God);
If you won't lift a foot to do work,
Nor let angry words flow from your mouths,

¹⁴ And just rely on Jehovah;
To your land, He will send blessings...
He'll feed the inheritance of Jacob (your father).'

From the mouth of the Lord, these things were all said.

Chapter 59

¹ Is the hand of Jehovah too weak to save?
Are His ears too heavy to listen?

² It's your sins that have brought this division,
Between yourselves and your God...
It's because of your sins that He's turned away,
So as not to show mercy upon you.

³ For, your hands are tainted with blood,
And your fingers [are covered with] sins.
Your lips speak about lawless things,
And your tongues discuss what's unrighteous.

⁴ Of righteous things, you no longer speak,
Nor is there any true justice.
You're relying on things that are foolish,
And you speak many words that are empty.

To things that are lawless, you've given birth,
And to misery, you are a father.

⁵ You hatch eggs of asps and weave spider webs;
But before anything can come eat them,
A rotten egg breaks, producing a cobra.

⁶ Your webs won't be woven into clothes,
Nor will you wear the things that you've made;
For, all that you're doing is lawless.

⁷ Your feet now run toward what's wicked,
And you're quick to shed innocent blood.

Your thoughts are all about murder...
In your paths, are misery and destruction.

⁸ The ways of peace, you've not known,
And in your roads, there's only injustice.
The paths that you walk are all twisted,
And peaceful ways, you have forgotten.

⁹ Yes, things that are fair have all left you...
There's no way that you will be just.

So, as these people are waiting for light
(As they're awaiting the sunrise),
All that comes will be darkness,
And they'll walk as though it were midnight.

¹⁰ Along the walls, like blind men, they'll grope
(They'll grope like men with no eyes),
And they'll stumble at noon as at midnight,
Then, moan like those who are dying...

¹¹ They'll travel like a bear with a dove.

So although we have waited for justice,
Our salvation is still far away,

¹² Since our lawless ways before Him are great,
And our sins have not been left behind.

Yes, our lawless ways are still in us,
And we're aware of all our offenses.

¹³ We've lied and we have been godless...
Yes, we have departed from God.

We've spoken unjustly and don't wish to change...
Of unrighteous things, we've thought in our hearts.

¹⁴ We've left behind what is fair,
And justice is now far away.

Truth was consumed in our ways,
And we're unable to walk in straight paths.

¹⁵ Yes, truth has been lifted away,
And the thoughts of the knowing are twisted.

Jehovah saw this and He wasn't pleased;
For, nowhere could fairness be found.

¹⁶ He thought and beheld that there's no one...
Not a man who would give aid [to others].

So with His arm, He became their defender...
In His mercy, He gave them support.

¹⁷ He put on the chest plate of justice,
And the helmet of salvation, He raised to His head.

¹⁸ In the coat of vengeance, He was wrapped
(In the robe of deserved retribution),

To repay His enemy's scorn.

¹⁹ So, the name of the Lord will be feared in the west,
And in the east, they'll honor and respect Him.
For Jehovah's anger will blaze,
Like the rage of a river.

²⁰ 'Then a savior will come out of Zion,
Who'll remove the irreverence from Jacob,' said Jehovah.

²¹ 'And this is My Agreement with him:
*My Breath will rest upon you,
And I'll put My words in your mouth.
At that time, your mouth not will fail you,
Nor will the mouths of your seed,
From now and into the ages.'*

Chapter 60

¹ 'So now, come to the light...
O JeruSalem, be lighted once more!
For His light is shining upon you,
Since the glory of Jehovah has risen!

² '{Look!}' Though darkness will cover the earth,
And the nations will be covered with gloom;
Over you, the Lord will appear,
And His glory will shine down upon you.

³ Then the nations will be drawn to your light,
And their kings will [head toward] your brightness.

⁴ 'Lift your eyes and look all around,
For you'll see your children being gathered...
From far-away places, your sons will return,
And your daughters will be carried on shoulders.

⁵ 'You'll see it in fear and your hearts will [skip beats];
For the wealth of the seas will then turn toward you,
And to you, the nations and peoples will stream.

⁶ 'Herds of camels, you'll own;
For the camels of Midian, Ephah, and Sheba,
Will arrive bearing gold and frankincense...
With the good news of Jehovah's salvation.

⁷ 'The sheep of Cypress will be gathered to you,
And NebAiOth's rams will come also,
To be sacrificed on My Altar,
And My House of Prayer will be glorified.

⁸ 'Who are these that fly by like clouds...
Passing by like doves with their young?

⁹ 'Islands have waited upon Me...

But first, the boats of TarShish must come,
To return your children from far away lands,
Along with much silver and gold,
To honor the Name of the Lord...
To glorify IsraEl's Most Holy One.

¹⁰ 'Then, foreigners will rebuild all your walls,
And their kings will be standing beside you.

'It was because of My rage that I struck you;
And it's because of My mercy that you will be loved.

¹¹ 'Then your gates will always be open
(Both day and night they'll never be locked),
To bring in the might of the nations...
And their kings will be leading the way!

¹² 'The nations and kings who won't serve you will die...
They'll be destroyed and then wiped away.

¹³ But to you, the glories of Lebanon will come...
They'll bring cypress, pine trees, and cedars,
To glorify My Holy Place...
I'll glorify the Place where you stand.

¹⁴ 'Then the sons of those who once humbled you,
Will stand before you in awe.
And those who provoked you will bow,
With their heads at the soles of your feet.
You'll be called the City of [God]...
And IsraEl's Most Holy Place, Zion.

¹⁵ 'Because you were abandoned and hated,
And no one came to your aid;
Through the ages, I'll make you a leaping for joy,
And a gladness throughout generations.

¹⁶ 'You'll drink the milk of the nations,
And from the wealth of kings, you will eat.
Then you'll know that I am Jehovah...
Jacob's God, who rescues and saves.

¹⁷ 'Then instead of bronze, I'll bring gold,
And instead of iron, I'll bring silver.
Instead of wood, I'll bring bronze;
And instead of stones, I'll bring iron.

I'll appoint your rulers for peace,
And your overseers, for justice.

¹⁸ No more, will injustice be heard in your land...
No misery or destruction in your borders.
For your walls will be known as *Salvation*,
And your gates will be called *Shouts of Joy*.

¹⁹ 'Then your days will no longer be lit by the sun,
And the moon won't be the light for your nights.
For through the ages, Jehovah will serve as your light...
Yes, God will then be your glory!

²⁰ 'Upon you, the sun will not set,
And the moon will never subside.
For the Lord is your light through the ages,
And your reasons to mourn will be gone.

²¹ 'Then, all your people will be righteous,
And they'll inherit the land through the ages.
They will keep all the things that they plant,
And the works of their hands, they will own.

²² 'The remnant will then become thousands,
And the least will become a great nation;
For in time, Jehovah will bring them all back.'

Chapter 61

¹ 'The Breath of Jehovah is upon me,
And I've been anointed by Him,
To announce good news to the poor.

'He sent me to heal broken hearts,
To proclaim freedom to captives,
And a recovery of sight to the blind...

² To call for a year of [God's] favor,
As well as a day of [God's] vengeance,
And to comfort those who are sad.

³ 'Instead of ashes, I will bring glory
To those who are mourning for Zion...
An anointing of gladness to all those who mourn,
[Which will serve] as a clothing of glory,
To replace the spirit of being unclean.

'They'll be called generations of the righteous...
A planting to the glory of [God].

⁴ Then, through the ages, they'll build in the deserts...
In places that were once desolation.

'They'll arise and revive desert cities,
Which, through generations, lay wasted.

⁵ Foreign peoples will then come to tend your sheep...
Philistines will serve as vinedressers and plowmen.

⁶ 'Then, Priests of Jehovah, you will be called...
They'll say you're the servants of God.
You'll devour the strength of the nations,
And be admired because of your wealth.

⁷ So, once again, you'll inherit the land,
With ages of joy over your heads.

⁸ 'For I am the Lord... a lover of justice,
One who detests all unrighteous seizures.
So, to the righteous, I will return,
The things for which they've worked hard,
And I'll make an age-long Agreement with them.

⁹ 'Then their seed will be known by the nations,
And their descendant will be known by all the people.
Yes, all who see them will recognize them,
For, they are a seed blest by God,

¹⁰ Who'll find joy in the joy of the Lord.

'May my soul shout in praise of Jehovah,
For He's wrapped me in a coat of salvation,
And in an inner garment of joy!
A turban, He's placed on my head, like a groom,
And like a bride, He's adorned me with jewels.

¹¹ 'As flowers that grow from the ground,
And as seeds that sprout in a garden,
The Lord Jehovah will raise what is righteous,
And cause jumping for joy before all the nations.

Chapter 62

¹ 'For Zion, I will not stay silent,
And for JeruSalem, I will spare any,
Until my justice goes forth like the light,
And my salvation burns like a lamp.

² 'Then the nations will look at your justice,
And their kings will see all your glory,
And they'll call you by your new name...
A name assigned by the mouth of the Lord.

³ For in the hand of Jehovah, you'll be a crown...
A royal turban in the hand of our God.

⁴ 'You'll no longer be called *the Forsaken*,
And your land won't be called *Desolation*.
My Will, is what you'll be called,
And your land will be called, *Habitation*.
For the Lord has found pleasure in you,
And with him, you'll dwell your land.

⁵ 'As a young man joins with a virgin,
Is how your sons will stick close to you.
For, as happy as a groom with his bride,
Is how the Lord will find joy in you.

⁶ 'O JeruSalem;
I will place guards on your walls,
Who won't stay silent throughout days and nights...
And to the end, they will speak of Jehovah.

⁷ 'For to you, there'll be no other like Him;
Because He will set matters straight,
And JeruSalem will be the earth's [navel].'

⁸ Jehovah swore this by His right hand,
And by the strength of His arm:
'Your enemies won't eat your food or your grain,
Nor will foreigner's sons drink your wine.
⁹ Just those who harvest will eat it,
As they give praise to Jehovah;
And those who pick [grapes] will drink their [own wine],
Within My Holy estates.

¹⁰ 'So get up and open My gates...
Open the way for My people!
Remove the stones from their roads,
And raise a sign that the nations will see.

¹¹ 'Then, to the ends of the earth,
The Lord will broadcast these words.
He'll, say to the daughter of Zion:
*Look, your Savior has come,
And before his face is his work and reward!*

¹² 'Then He'll call you a most holy people
(Those who were ransomed by [God]),
And you'll be called, *The City We've Searched For*,
And no longer, *The One That's Abandoned.*'

Chapter 63

¹ Who is this that's coming from Edom...
From BozRah, wearing clothes with red stains...
This handsome one with that great, mighty arm?
'I have [arrived to bring] justice,
And [to plead] your case for salvation.'

² But, why are you wearing red clothes,
As though you've been treading a wine vat?

³ 'I'm covered with the things that I've trampled,
And no man of the nations is with me;
For I've trampled them all in my rage.
'I broke them up [like plowing] the ground,
And I've poured out their blood over the land,

So, that's why my clothes are defiled.

⁴ 'For the day of retribution has come,
And the year for paying the ransom's arrived.

⁵ 'But I searched and found no one to help me...
I noticed that no one would come to my aid.
So I brought salvation with my mighty arm,
And attended to it in my rage.

⁶ 'I trampled them down in my anger,
And led their blood down into the ground!'

⁷ 'I've thought about the mercies of [God],
And the virtues of His retribution.
[I found His] judgments on IsraEl just,
For what He brings is justice and mercy.

⁸ He said, 'My children must show Me respect!'
Then, from their opposers, He saved them...
Not His envoy or angel... Himself!

⁹ Because He loved them, He saved them...
He spared them, and [He paid] their ransom.
But, though He took them and raised them,
Through all the days of that age,

¹⁰ They still refused to listen to Him,
And by this, they were provoking His Spirit.

(A Messianic prophecy)

So the Lord turned against them in hatred,
And then, He waged war against them.

¹¹ But He thought about ancient days,
And then, from the ground, He raised someone,
Who would shepherd His sheep.

¹² Where is this one who poured out [God's] Breath...
The one who led Moses with his right hand...
This one with the glorious arm?

Before [Moses], he conquered the waters,
And through ages, made a name for himself.

¹³ For he led them through the deep [sea];
Then like horses in the desert, they didn't wear out.

¹⁴ Then, just as though they were cattle,
[They traveled from there through] the plains,
For the Spirit of the Lord came to guide them.
And once more, this is how you will lead them,
And again make a glorious name for yourself.

¹⁵ So, turn and look down from the heavens...

Look down from your holy, glorious place!
Where is your zeal and your strength?
Where is your mercy and compassion,
Which you've been withholding from us?

¹⁶ Our father, you've now become;
For by AbraHam, we wouldn't be known,
Nor would IsraEl have recognized us.
So, O Lord, please come to our aid;
For, you have become our [true] father!

¹⁷ From ancient times, we've carried [God's] Name;
So, why did He let us stray from His ways,
And harden our hearts not to fear Him?

Please return, because we're Your servants...
We're the tribes that You have chosen by lot,
¹⁸ To inherit Your Most Holy Mountain.

Your enemies have trampled on Your Holy Place,
¹⁹ And we've gone back to what we once were...
Back when You didn't rule us,
And we weren't called by Your Name.

Chapter 64

¹ If You should choose to open the skies,
The mountains would tremble and melt,
As though they were beeswax in fire.

² You'll send flames to consume all [who hate us],
And [among us], Your Name will then shine...
Before You, the nations will quiver.

³ And when You do Your honorable deed,
The mountains will all start to tremble.

⁴ Through the ages, no one has heard,
Nor have their eyes seen a god that is like You...
None that have done the deeds that You've done,
On behalf of those seeking Your mercy.

⁵ You will meet with the righteous,
And remember how we had been just.
{Look!} But now, we have still sinned and provoked You to rage,
And for this, we know we must wander.

⁶ For we've pushed aside what is righteous,
Like a rag used for menstruation.
Into lawless ways, we have fallen like leaves,
So the wind will blow us away.

⁷ Why, no one calls on Your Name,
Nor do any remember to grab hold of You.

So from us, You have turned Your face,
And You've handed us over because of our sins.

⁸ But, O Jehovah;
You are our only [true] Father,
And we are just [clay]... the works of Your hands.
⁹ So, [please] don't stay angry with us...
Don't always remember our sins!

O Jehovah, please look down upon us,
Because we are your people!
¹⁰ Your Holy City, Zion, is now desolation,
And JeruSalem has been destroyed.
¹¹ Your House and its Glorious Most Holy,
By which our fathers were blest,
Lies scorched, and its honorable things are torn down.
¹² All of this, You've had to endure, O Lord...
As You've remained silent and let us be humbled.

Chapter 65

¹ 'I was seen by those not searching for Me;
And found by those not asking for Me...
I said, *Here I am*, to a nation,
Which had not called on My Name.
² 'For I've held out My hands all day long,
To a people who just wouldn't listen,
And to those who only talked back...
Those who've not followed in good ways,
But who kept [walking] in sin.
³ 'They stand there before Me and just make Me mad...
For they sacrifice in their gardens,
And burn incense on bricks before demons;
⁴ They sleep in tombs and in caves to have dreams,
Then eat pigs and [offer their] gravy to Me.
'So, all that [they offer] is tainted;
⁵ Yet they say, *Stay away... don't approach me!*
For, I have made myself clean!
'Such things will bring the smoke of My rage,
And a fire that will burn throughout the days.
⁶ 'Look! It's written that here in My presence,
I won't stay silent until I've repaid,
And [raked] all their sins onto their chests,
⁷ As well as the sins of their fathers,' says Jehovah.
'So on all who burn incense on mountains,
And speak ill of Me in the hills;

I'll [rake] their [bad] deeds onto their chests!

⁸ Jehovah says,

'When they find seeds in grapes, they often say:

Do not throw them away,

For they will bring us good luck!

And that's how I'll deal with My servants...

It's what I'll do, so I don't destroy all.

⁹ 'From Jacob and Judah, I'll pick out one seed,

Who'll inherit my Holy Mountain.

My elected, he'll also inherit,

And they will dwell with him there.

¹⁰ 'Then, flocks will dwell in their groves,

And in the Valley of Achor,

My people's herds will find rest...

Yes, the [sheep of those] who are searching for Me.

¹¹ 'But, you are the ones who have left Me...

You've abandoned My Holy Mountain.

You've prepared tables for demons,

And mixed [potions] to bring you good luck.

¹² 'So, to the sword, I'll now hand you,

And you will fall in the slaughter.

For I called out, but you wouldn't listen...

I spoke, but you paid no attention...

You kept doing what's wicked before Me,

And the things I didn't want are the things that you chose.

¹³ 'So, because of this,' says Jehovah,

'{Look!} My servants will eat, as you starve;

{Look!} My servants will drink, as you will go thirsty.

{Look!} Those serving Me will be happy;

But, you will just be ashamed.

¹⁴ Those serving Me will cry out in joy;

But you'll cry out in misery of heart,

And as you're being destroyed, you will shriek!

¹⁵ 'Then the names that you'll leave behind,

Will be just a glut to My chosen.

For the Lord will do away with you all,

And I'll give a new name to My servants.

¹⁶ 'Throughout the whole earth, they'll be blest.

And they will give praise to God.

Then, those on the earth who swear oaths,

Will swear them by the true God.

They'll forget the trials they endured...

Such things won't enter their hearts.

¹⁷ 'For there'll be new lands and new skies,
 And past things will not be remembered,
 Nor will they enter their hearts.
¹⁸ Then, all will be leaping for joy,
 For the happiness that they'll find there!
 '{Look!}' I'll make JeruSalem a leaping for joy,
 And a source of glee to My people.
¹⁹ About that city, I'll shout in praise,
 And be happy along with My people.
 'No more will you hear sounds of weeping,
 Or the sounds of crying among them.
²⁰ No way will there be a miscarriage,
 Or the old who don't live out their days.
 For a man will be young at a hundred,
 And at a hundred, the sinners will be cursed and die.
²¹ 'The rest will build houses in which they will live...
 They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit,
 And they will drink their own wine.
²² No way will they then build for others,
 And no way will they plant what others will eat.
 'Then the days of My people will be like a tree,
 And what they make with their hands will grow old.
²³ 'My elected won't labor for nothing,
 Nor will they give birth to cursed children;
 For their seed and all their descendants,
 Will then be blessings from God.
²⁴ 'Before they call, I will hear them,
 And when they speak, I'll be asking, *What is it?*
²⁵ 'Then wolves and lambs will all graze together,
 And lions will eat straw like the oxen.
 The snake will eat the ground as its bread,
 And there'll be no harm or destruction,
 On My Holy Mountain,' says Jehovah.

Chapter 66

¹ Jehovah said:
 'The heavens are My Throne and the earth is My footstool;
 So, what kind of House can you build for Me...
 What kind of place [can you build] for My rest?
² For, since I made it all with My hands,
 These things are [already] Mine!
 Then Jehovah said:
 'Whom will I look on [in favor]?'

Just the unassuming and humble...
Just those who tremble at the things that I say.

³ 'But a calf that is offered by the lawless,
Is to Me, as the slaps of a man.
And when they offer sacrifices from the flock,
I view them as though they're offering dogs.

'[I consider] their offerings of fine flour,
As though bringing the blood of a pig...
And the frankincense they offer in remembrance,
As shouting blasphemies against Me.

'For they've each chosen their own ways to go,
And what their souls have chosen is disgusting.

⁴ So, I will choose how to mock them,
And I'll pay them back for their sins.

'For I called out to them and they chose not to hear...
I spoke and they wouldn't listen.
They've acted wickedly before Me,
And did the things that I didn't want.'

⁵ So, hear the word of Jehovah,
O you who still tremble when you hear His voice!
Tell your brothers who hate and detest you,
To glorify the Name of the Lord,
And [that Name] should be looked on in gladness...
So, they should now feel ashamed!

⁶ A voice cries out from the city...
It's a voice [that comes] from the Temple...
It is the voice of Jehovah,
And it's about the retribution He'll bring:

⁷ 'Before her labor to give birth,
And before the misery of birth pangs,
She fled and gave birth to a son.

⁸ 'Who's ever heard about such a thing...
Who has ever seen anything like it?
Has the earth given birth in a day...
Has a nation given birth all at once,
As Zion will labor and bring forth [a son]?''

⁹ Jehovah said:
'I told them what they should expect,
But they failed to remember [My words].
For {Look!} I made the one who gives birth,
As well as the one who is sterile.'

And your God says:

¹⁰ 'So JeruSalem; you should be glad...
Those who love her should all celebrate.
Celebrate in joy, you who live there,
And all of you who have mourned her!

¹¹ 'For, you can now nurse and be filled,
With the comfort that comes from her breasts...
In sucking, you too may indulge,
When her glory is finally shown.'

¹² Jehovah said:
'{Look!} Toward them, I'll divert a river of peace,
And they'll be covered with the glory of the nations,
Who'll carry your children on their shoulders,
And on their knees, [your young] will find comfort,
¹³ As any [good] mother gives comfort.

'This is how I will then comfort you...
And JeruSalem, you will find comfort.

¹⁴ You'll see it and rejoice in your heart and your bones...
Then you'll flourish like grass in a pasture!

'All will then know that this came from the hand of the Lord...
Yes, all those who fear him will know it.
But, he will threaten all those,
Who choose to resist his persuasion.'

¹⁵ 'For {Look!} the Lord will come like a fire...
As a blast from his chariot wheels, in his rage,
To pay back and punish in flames,
All those who've turned from him in contempt.

¹⁶ 'Then the lands will be judged by his fire,
And all flesh [will be judged] by his sword.
Many will be slain by the Lord in that day...

¹⁷ Those who've gone to their gardens for cleansing,
And those who ate pork on their thresholds
(The disgusting things and the mouse)...
Together, they'll all be consumed,' said Jehovah.

¹⁸ 'I know their works and their ways,
And I've come to gather all nations and tongues...
To see My glory, they'll gather,
¹⁹ And I will give them a sign.

'I'll return those whom I gave to the nations...
From TarShish, Pul, MeShach, and Lud...
From Tubal, Greece, and the islands...
From those far away who've not heard of My Name,
And those who've not witnessed My glory.

'They'll announce My glory to the nations,

²⁰ And then, as a gift from the Lord,
I'll bring your brothers back from the nations,
Along with horses and wagons,
And royal chariots with awnings, drawn by mules.'

And Jehovah said:

'Then the sons of IsraEl will offer sacrifices,
And sing songs in the [Temple] of God.

²¹ And from them, I'll choose Levites and Priests,' said Jehovah.

²² For, as the new lands and new skies that I'll make,
Are all waiting before Me,' says Jehovah;
'I'll establish your seed and your name.

²³ 'Then, there within JeruSalem,
From New Moon to New Moon and Sabbath to Sabbath,
All flesh will come and bow before Me,' said Jehovah.

²⁴ 'They'll go out and see the bodies of men
(Those who rebelled against Me),
Whose worms won't come to an end,
And whose fire will not be extinguished...
It'll be a sight for all flesh [to see].'

Jeremiah

From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians.

Supposedly written by JeremiAh over a period somewhere between 655-BCE and 570-BCE.

However, the fact that JeremiAh is sometimes mentioned in the third person indicates that a later writer (possibly Ezra) also had a hand in the writing.

Chapter 1

¹ **These are the words of God that came to JeremiAh (the son of HilkiAh), a Priest who lived in AnathOth in the land of BenJamin.** ² God's words came to him in the days of JosiAh (the son of AmMon) the king of Judah in the thirteenth year of his reign. ³ All of this happened from the time of JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, until the eleventh year of ZedekiAh (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah and [the beginning of] the captivity of JeruSalem, [which happened] in the fifth month.

⁴ The Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

⁵ 'I knew you before you were formed in the womb;
And before you came from the belly,
I chose you and I made you holy,
To serve as a Prophet to the nations.'

⁶ But I said: 'O Almighty One and Lord; Look! I don't know how to speak, for I'm just a young man.'

⁷ And the Lord told me:

'Don't say that you're just a young man;
For you'll go to whomever I send you,
And you'll speak whatever I tell you to say!

⁸ 'For, Jehovah said this:

*Don't be afraid when you go before them,
Since I'm with you and I will protect you.'*

⁹ So the Lord stuck out his hand toward me and then he touched my mouth, saying:

'Look! I'm putting My words into your mouth,

¹⁰ For I've appoint you over nations and kingdoms...
Not just to root out, cut down, and set free,
But also to rebuild and replant.'

¹¹ And thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to me asking, 'What do you see, JeremiAh?'
And I said, 'I see a walnut walking stick.'

¹² And the Lord said to me:

'You are [very observant];
And I'm [watching to see if you'll] do as I [say].'

¹³ Then the Word of The Lord came to me a second time asking, 'What do you see now?'
And I replied: 'I see a kettle over a fire with its front facing north.'

¹⁴ And the Lord said to me:

'Thus, from the face of the north,
All who are bad will be burned away,

From those who live in the land.

¹⁵ 'For, this is what Jehovah has said:

*'From the north, I'll be gathering kingdoms,
Which will come there, and then they'll each place their thrones,
On the thresholds of JeruSalem's gates,
And on the walls of the cities of Judah.*

¹⁶ *'Then I'll speak My judgments against them,
For all the bad things [these people] have done...
[I'll speak of] how they have left Me,
And sacrificed to gods that they haven't known...
How they've bowed to the works of their hands.*

¹⁷ 'So arise and wrap up your waist,
And tell them all that I'll tell you to say!
Don't be afraid when you go there,
Nor be in terror before them;
For, this was said by Jehovah:
I'm with you and I will [protect] you.

¹⁸ {Look!} So today, I've turned you into a fort...
A fortified wall made of brass,
To resist Judah's rulers and kings,
And to oppose the people of your land.

¹⁹ 'And although they will wage war against you,
There's no way that they'll be able to win;
For I'm with you and I will [protect] you, said Jehovah.'

Chapter 2

¹ Then the Word of the Lord came to me again and said,
² 'Go and yell in JeruSalem's ears... tell them that thus says Jehovah:
*I remembered the mercy you had in your youth,
And the love that you had for perfection...
When you obeyed IsraEl's Most Holy One.*
This was said by Jehovah, IsraEl's Most Holy Lord.

³ 'IsraEl is Holy to Jehovah,
And because they are His first born,
He's offended by those who are chewing them up,
And He'll bring bad things to those doing this,' said the Lord.

⁴ 'O house of Jacob (you families of the house of IsraEl);
Hear the word of Jehovah!

⁵ For, Jehovah is asking you this:
*What defect did your fathers find in Me,
That they'd leave Me to do what is silly,
And to follow things that are foolish?*

⁶ *'They no longer ask, Where is Jehovah...*

The One who led us through the desert from Egypt...
Through that vast land without water or fruit...
A land through which no man can travel...
A land where no one can live?

⁷ *'For I led you to CarMel, where you ate its fruits,
As well as its other good things...
Then you entered My land and defiled it,
And My inheritance, you turned into something that's foul.*

⁸ *'The priests didn't ask, Where's Jehovah?
So, those who resisted the Law,
Were never drawn back to Me.
Your shepherds were all disrespectful,
And your prophets spoke the prophecies of BaAl,
So you followed after things that were worthless!*

⁹ *'But despite all of this, I chose you, says Jehovah;
And the sons of your sons, I [accepted].*

¹⁰ *'Now, go to the Island of Cyprus and see...
Send to Kedar and you'll understand!
See if such things were done there...
If the gods of these nations had any effect,
Because, they really aren't gods!*

¹¹ *'Yet My people have left all their glory,
For something that does them no good!*

¹² *'By this, the skies were amazed...
Yes, [it caused them to] shudder, says Jehovah.*

'To Me, My people did two wicked things:

· ¹³ *They abandoned the spring of the waters of life,
· And they dug cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.*

¹⁴ *'Is IsraEl a slave or a native-born son;
For, why did he choose to be plundered?*

¹⁵ *Now, lions are roaring before him,
That are ordered to wipe out his land.
For his cities will be cut to the ground,
So that no one can live there again!*

¹⁶ *'The sons of Memphis and TahPanhes...
Those who know you, are starting to mock you!*

¹⁷ *And this happened because you have left Me,
Says Jehovah, your God.*

¹⁸ *'Now, what are the ways of Egypt to you,
That you would [long for] their waters?
And what are the ways of Assyria to you,
That you'd wish to drink from their rivers?*

¹⁹ *'So, because you left Me, I'll discipline you...
I'll scold You for all your evil ways...
You'll see it and then you will know,
How bitter are the ways of turning from Me,
Says Jehovah, your God!*

²⁰ *'I've come to think [poorly] of you,
Says Jehovah your God.
For, through the ages, you've broken My yoke,
And you've ripped off My bonds.*

*'You said, I won't be [Your] servant;
But I'll climb up every high hill,
And bow beneath every shade tree...
This is where I'll go whoring!*

²¹ *'I planted you as My grapevine,
For the purpose of bearing the fruitage of truth.
But, why did you then turn so bitter,
And become a grapevine that's strange?*

²² *'Now, if I would wash you in lye,
And if I'd use plenty of soap,
You'd still be spotted in your sins before Me.*

²³ *'How can you say you're not dirty,
And that you've not chased after BaAl?
Look how you've acted in graveyards...
Yes, you know all the things that you've done!*

²⁴ *'Upon desert waters, her ways have been spread,
And she's driven by the winds of desires.
So to them, she's been handed over,
To turn her away from her [evil].*

*'Now those searching for her won't get tired,
And she'll be humbled when they come and take her.*

²⁵ *'Though she should turn her feet from this path,
And turn her throat from this thirst,
This is what she's still saying:
I will act like a man;
So, I will chase after strangers,
And with them, I'll make love!*

²⁶ *'As a thief is shamed when he's caught;
That's how IsraEl's sons will be shamed...
Yes they, their kings, and their rulers,
As well as their prophets and priests.*

²⁷ *'For they've said to a tree, You're my father;
And they've said to a stone, You gave me life.*

*'So although they have turned their backs,
But not their faces, to Me,
When hard times come, they'll still say:
O Jehovah, come save us!*

*²⁸ 'Will [your idols] save you in hard times arrive?
Won't [you turn] to these gods that you've made for yourselves?*

*'In Judah, each city has its own gods,
And in all of JeruSalem's streets,
They offer sacrifices to BaAl.*

²⁹ So, why are you still talking to me?

'Jehovah says:

*You've been irreverent and lawless toward Me,
³⁰ And it's in vain that I've spanked you like children;
For, you weren't corrected by this.*

*'So, though a sword has devoured your prophets
And though lions have wiped them away,
This hasn't [taught you] to fear Me.*

*³¹ 'So, hear the word of the Lord,
For, Jehovah is asking you this:
To IsraEl, am I a desert...
Am I a land that is barren to you?*

*'Why is it that My people say,
You are no longer our Lord,
So, we won't be coming before You?*

*³² 'Will the bride forget her tiara,
And will virgins forget the bands for their breasts?
Yet, I've been forgotten by you,
Through too many days to be counted.*

*³³ 'What good can you make of your ways,
So that you can seek [My] affection again?
It just won't do any good,
Because you've become very wicked.*

*'All of your ways are now dirty,
And innocent blood is found in your hands.*

*³⁴ No, I didn't find them in ditches,
But [hanging] from every [tall] tree.*

*³⁵ Yet you say, I am not guilty...
So, please turn back You rage!*

*'{Look!} I'm the One who's passing judgment on you,
When you say that you haven't sinned!*

*³⁶ And for you, I feel great disdain,
Because of the things that you've done many times.*

*'So by Egypt, you will be disgraced,
As by Assyria, you've been disgraced in the past.
³⁷ You'll be taken from here with your hands on your heads,
Because Jehovah has thrust you away,
And none of your hopes will succeed.'*

Chapter 3

*¹ 'If a man [divorces] his woman,
And she leaves and [marries] another,
Then, after that, she [also leaves him];
Can she return [to first one] again?
For, once she has been defiled,
Isn't she always defiled?*

*'Yet, after [you've had] many shepherds,
You want to come back to Me, says Jehovah.
² But, raise your eyes to see the right way...
Look at how you've been dirtied!*

*'For you sat by the road [and waited] for them,
Alone and defiled like a crow,
In this land of your evil and whoring.*

*³ 'You've stumbled and had many shepherds,
And because you looked like a whore,
You have brought shame on them all.*

*⁴ 'Wasn't it up until then,
That you called Me [your] Father...
The One who founded your virgin condition?*

*⁵ [And wasn't it you who once said],
Through the age, I'll still be a virgin...
I'll guard this state until I have won?
{Look!} Yet, though you once said all these things,
You went and did what was vile!"*

*⁶ It was during the days of King Josiah that the Lord said this to me:
'You saw what the house of Israel has done.
For she's climbed up every high mountain,
And crawled under every tree in the woods,
And there, she's committed [adultery].*

*⁷ 'Then, after she did all her whoring, I said:
Turn away from all these bad things!
Yet, she [refused] to turn back.*

*'So, when I saw that Judah had broken [her vows];
⁸ I knew that in order to benefit all,
I had to stand up [for what's right].*

'The house of Israel fell into seduction,

And then she committed adultery.
So with a certificate of release, I sent her away.

'But the [vow]-breaker Judah wasn't bothered by this,
And she continued in her whoring ways.

⁹ For, whoring was nothing to her...
She even did it with wood and stone things...

¹⁰ Her heart refused to turn back,
And all she offered was lies.'

¹¹ Then the Lord said to me:

'Even IsraEl was better than that [vow]-breaker Judah;

¹² So, go to the north and then read these words...
Tell [those in the north] that thus says Jehovah:

*'O house of IsraEl; come back to Me,
And against you, I'll not set My face...
I will show mercy upon you, says Jehovah,
And I won't stay outraged through the age.*

¹³ *'Just be aware of your sins!
For you've shown disrespect to Jehovah, your God...
[Your love] you've given to strangers,
Beneath every tree in the woods,
And you didn't obey what I said, says Jehovah.*

¹⁴ *'So return, you sons who've revolted, says God,
And I'll be your Lord once again.
I'll choose one man from each city,
And I will choose two from each family;
Then, I will take them to Zion,*

¹⁵ *And appoint them as shepherds for you
(These ones that My heart has chosen),
And with higher knowledge, they'll watch over you.*

¹⁶ *'Then, as you grow and spread through the land, says Jehovah;
In those days, they'll no longer speak,
Of IsraEl's Holy Chest of the Sacred Agreement...
No, into their hearts, it won't come...
It won't be named or examined...
This won't be done anymore!*

¹⁷ *'For, in those days and during that time,
JeruSalem will then become known,
As the place of the Throne of Jehovah,
And it's where all the nations will gather,
And not follow the wicked thoughts of their hearts.*

¹⁸ *'In those days, the houses of IsraEl and Judah,
Will together be joined as one [nation].
They'll be gathered from the lands of the north,*

To the place that I gave to their fathers.'

¹⁹ Well at that, I shouted: 'May it happen, O Lord!

'Why, You told me that You will let me have children, and that I would receive a choice piece of land... the inheritance of the Almighty God... [the God] who is over all the nations! Yes, Father; You've called me, and I'll never turn from You!'

²⁰ But the Lord said:

'As a woman turns from her man,
Is how the house of IsraEl has left Me.

²¹ So from her lips, will come sounds of weeping.

'Tell IsraEl's sons to turn back and beg,
Because their ways have let them to sin,
And they've forgotten their Most Holy God.

²² Turn back, O sons... turn back and I'll heal your broken condition!'

[And I said]: 'Look... that's how we'll be with You then, for You are our God Jehovah! ²³ Why, the powers of the hills and the mountains are really the powers of our Lord... our God who is IsraEl's Savior! ²⁴ Yet, the efforts of our fathers have been eaten away by shame since the time of their youth. Now, all their sheep and calves (their sons and daughters) ²⁵ go to bed in shame and they're covered by their dishonor. Yes, we (like our fathers) have sinned before God from the time of our youth down to this day, and we've failed to pay attention to the voice of Jehovah our God!'

Chapter 4

¹ 'If IsraEl should [choose to] return,' said the Lord,
'I'll also turn back to them...
If they'll wash the disgusting things from their mouths...
If they'll show that they will respect Me...'

² If they'll swear, *As Jehovah is living*, in oaths,
I'll bless them with equity, justice, and truth.
Then, all the nations will praise them,
And in JeruSalem, all will praise God.

³ 'So to the men of Judah and JeruSalem,
Jehovah gave these instructions:
*Prepare your [hearts]... get them ready for plowing,
And don't allow thorn bushes to grow there!*

⁴ 'O men of Judah and JeruSalem;
Circumcise your [hearts] to your God...
Cut the hardness out of your hearts,
Lest the fire of His rage comes [upon you],
Which none can extinguish for the bad things you're doing!

⁵ 'Announce [this message] to Judah,
And JeruSalem should listen to this:
*Blow trumpets throughout the whole land,
And then, cry out in loud voices!*

⁶ 'Say, *All should gather inside the walled cities...
Gather your things and run to Mount Zion!
Do this quickly, don't wait,
For, out of the north, bad things are coming...
A terrible destruction is headed your way!*

⁷ *'For the lion has come from his lair,
And now, he's wiping out nations.
He's arisen and come from his place,
To desolate lands and destroy them!*

*'So your cities will all be demolished,
And you'll no longer be living within them.*

⁸ *'Because of this, put on sackcloth...
Be sad, and then start to bawl!
For the anger and rage of Jehovah,
Will not be diverted from you.*

⁹ 'And in that day,' said the Lord,
'There'll be no heart in the king...
The hearts of the rulers and priests will be shocked,
And the prophets will all be confused.'

¹⁰ Then I replied: 'O our Almighty Lord; Surely you're just joking... aren't you misleading these people? Aren't you saying there'll be peace for JeruSalem and that the sword isn't really coming into our lives?'

¹¹ [But He said]:
'In that time, I'll say this to these people
(To those who are living in JeruSalem):
*An addiction to delusions has come from the desert;
For the ways of the daughters of My people,
Are no longer thought of as pure...
No, none have kept themselves holy.*

¹² *'So the spirit of fulfillment has come over me,
And I will speak judgments against them.'*

¹³ Look! Like a cloud, he is now ascending;
His chariot is sending out blasts;
And his horses are lighter than eagles.
So woe, for misery is heading our way!

¹⁴ Therefore, O JeruSalem;
Rinse the evil out of your hearts,
So you can somehow be saved!

How long did you think you could do all those things,
Which are [the root] of your [problems]?

¹⁵ But now, from Dan, you'll start hearing voices,
And from Ephraim, will come misery.

¹⁶ '{Look!}' Give this reminder to the nations,

And shout it aloud in JeruSalem:
*From a far-away land will come an alliance,
That is speaking against the cities of Judah!*

¹⁷ *'They'll [camp] around her and guard all her fields,
Because I've been neglected by you, says Jehovah.*

¹⁸ *It's due to your [bad] ways and deeds,
That they are coming against you...
Because your evil is bitter,
And it's reached up into your hearts!*

¹⁹ *'This [thought] brings pain to My belly...
It causes My heart to feel spasms and ache...
But My Soul has been forced to take action!*

²⁰ *'So, I will no longer be silent;
For My Soul now hears trumpet blasts,
And the cries of misery and war.*

*'This conflict is something that's called for,
And misery will come to your land.
For, you have abandoned My Tent,
And its covering of skins has been parted.*

²¹ *'Why must I watch [people] fleeing,
And hear the blowing of trumpets?*

²² *But, it will all happen because,
The leaders of My people don't know Me,
And they've become foolish sons,
Who aren't very discerning...
They're just wise when it comes to doing what's bad,
And they no longer know how to do what is good.'*

²³ Then I looked to the land and saw nothing...
I looked into the sky and its lights weren't there.

²⁴ Then I noticed that the mountains were shaking,
And I saw that the hills were disturbed.

²⁵ I looked and saw there was no one,
And the birds in the skies had been frightened away.
I observed and saw that CarMel was bare,
And all the cities were burning...
Set on fire by the face of Jehovah.

²⁶ For, due to His anger and rage,
They were removed from His view.

²⁷ Then the Lord said:
'The whole land will soon lie in ruins;
But no way will it all be destroyed.

²⁸ 'So, let the land start its mourning,
And let the skies above it be dark;

For I've spoken and now, I won't change My mind...
I will allow it to happen,
And I will not be dissuaded!

²⁹ 'From the sounds of horsemen with tightly stretched bows,
In every place, they will run...
They'll hide in caves and in sacred groves,
And down among rocks, they'll descend.
The cities will all be abandoned,
And people will no longer live there.

³⁰ 'So now, what will you do...
Will you put on your scarlet and gold?
And if you rub antimony on your eyelids,
Won't it all be in vain?
For, though you may wear your finest of clothes,
Your lovers have already pushed you away,
And now they're seeking your life!

³¹ 'I heard the sounds of women in labor,
And the moans of those giving first birth.
But the voice of the daughter of Zion grew faint,
And her hands become weak as she said:
*Woe to me, for my life has now failed,
And I am being destroyed!*"

Chapter 5

¹ 'Now, run through JeruSalem's streets...
You should seek and search in her squares...
See if there's just one righteous man...
A single man you can trust.
Then, to such a one, I'll be kind,' says Jehovah.

² '*As Jehovah lives*, they often say,
But when they swear oaths, aren't they lying?'

³ O Lord;
Your eyes have searched for those who are true;
But, when You whipped them, they felt no pain.
You finished them off, but they didn't learn...
Their faces remained as solid as rocks,
And they refused to turn back to You.

⁴ Then I said:
'Perhaps it's only the poor,
Who don't understand the ways of the Lord,
Or comprehend the fairness of God.

⁵ So I'll go and speak to the wealthy;
For they'll recognize the ways of the Lord,
And the fairness of God.'

But look! Together, they've broken their yokes,
And they've all torn off their bonds.

⁶ It's because to this, that lions attacked...
Then, out of the woods came a wolf,
Which entered their homes and [consumed] them,
As leopards kept watch in their towns.

That's how those who leave Him are hunted,
Because none have shown Him respect,
And their rejection [of God] has grown worse.

⁷ 'What sort of kindness should you expect,
Now that your sons have all left Me?
Since they have sworn oaths by those who aren't gods,
With them, I've now become filled.
They are even committing adultery,
And whores find rest in their homes!

⁸ 'Like horses, they snort and are sex crazed...
Each one for the wife of his neighbor.

⁹ So for this, shouldn't I come to visit,' asks Jehovah?
'Shouldn't My soul take vengeance upon such a nation?

¹⁰ 'So, climb upon all her battle towers,
Then knock them down until none remain...
Yes, you're the ones who must do it!

'Destroy all of that which supports her;
For none of this came from Jehovah!

¹¹ 'None have shown Me respect,' says Jehovah...
'Not the houses of IsraEl or of Judah.

¹² About their Lord, they have lied;
For they've said, *These things will not happen...*
Bad things won't really come to us...
Neither famine nor sword will we see.

¹³ 'For [His] Prophets are really just windbags,
And they don't [speak] the word of Jehovah;
So this will happen to them, not to us!'

¹⁴ 'It's because of this,' says Jehovah the Almighty;
'It's because you have said all these things,
That I've put My words like flames in your mouths,
And they will consume you as though you were wood.

¹⁵ 'Notice, O house of IsraEl;
That from a far-away land,
I'm bringing a nation against you,' says Jehovah,
'Which speaks a tongue that you won't understand.

¹⁶ 'The quivers of their mighty are like open tombs,

¹⁷ And they'll devour your harvests and bread,
As well as your sons and your daughters.

'They'll eat your sheep and your calves...
They'll consume your vineyards and fig groves,
As well as all of your olives.

'They'll thresh your fortified cities with swords
(The places that you have relied on).

¹⁸ And in that day,' said Jehovah;
'Your God won't allow you fulfillment.

¹⁹ 'And when you ask why He let this happen,
The Lord will give this reply:

*I did it because you have left Me,
And you served strange gods in My land.
So, you will now have to serve strangers,
In a land that is no longer yours.*

²⁰ 'To the house of Jacob, announce all these things,
And let it be heard throughout Judah!

²¹ *Pay attention, you foolish and heartless...
You who have eyes but can't see,
And you who have ears but can't hear.*

²² *'Why are you failing to fear Me, asks [God],
And not bowing with your faces to the ground?
For I'm the One who ordered the sands,
To be the limits of the seas!
It's the order [that I gave] through the ages,
That the seas cannot go beyond them...
Its [waves] may disturb them, but they cannot win.
For no matter how much the waves roar,
They can't pass beyond the limits I've set.*

²³ 'Yet, to these people, came hearts that won't listen,
And which have resisted persuasion...
So they turned aside and they left [Me].

²⁴ 'They have not said in their hearts,
*We should fear Jehovah, our God...
The One who gives rain in its seasons
(Both the early and the late rains),
And who orders full harvests for us.*

²⁵ 'By your lawless deeds, you've turned from these things...
By your sins, you've removed what's good from yourselves.

²⁶ For among My own people, the godless are found...
They set snares to corrupt other men,
As they devise [evil] plans.

²⁷ 'As a snare is set to catch many birds,

Is how treachery has filled up their homes.
And because of this, they're now famous and rich...
They've become fat on injustice.
²⁸ The side of orphans, they will not take,
And they don't give justice to widows.
²⁹ 'Am I not watching such things,' asks Jehovah?
'Won't My soul bring vengeance upon them?'
³⁰ 'This is why things have now changed...
This is why they'll shudder throughout the whole land!
³¹ For their prophets now prophesy lies,
As their priests are applauding and clapping their hands.
So, since this is what My people have loved,
What will they do [in the future]?'

Chapter 6

¹ 'O sons of Benjamin, be strong,
There in JeruSalem's midst.
But now you should start blowing trumpets...
From the House in the Vineyards, sound the alarm!
For, bad things now loom in the north,
And a great destruction is coming!

² 'O you daughter of Zion,
Your haughty ways will soon be removed;
³ For to you, will come shepherds and flocks,
Who will pitch their tents all around you,
And there, each one will tend his own portion.

⁴ *'Let's prepare to make war against her!
Arise, for we will attack her at noon!
Woe to us, for the day is now gone,
And the shadows of daylight have failed.
⁵ So we'll arise and attack her at night,
And wipe away her foundations!'*

⁶ For, thus says Jehovah of Armies:
'Cut down all of her trees!
Against that city of liars, send troops...
Complete your tyranny against her!

⁷ 'As the cool of well water,
You must cool off her evil.
Disrespect and misery are in her,
So you must throw it back into her face!

⁸ 'O you in JeruSalem;
In misery, you will be lashed with a whip,
But My soul won't totally leave you...

I won't make you an untrodden land,
Which will not be lived in again.'

⁹ For, thus says Jehovah of Armies:
'Glean them as though gleaning grapes,
(Those few who'll remain within IsraEl)...
Return as the picker returns to his [vines]!

¹⁰ 'To whom should I be saying these things...
Yes, whom can I tell that will listen?
{Look!} Because their ears are uncircumcised,
They are unable to hear.
And since Jehovah's word is something they scorn,
{Look!} They'll be unwilling to listen!

¹¹ 'Though I waited, My rage wasn't filled,
And I didn't completely finish them off;
So I'll pour it out on their children,
And upon their groups of young men.

'Their women and men will be taken,
With the elders and those who have filled up their days.

¹² Then their houses will be given to others,
Along with their fields and their women.

'Against all in this land, I'll stretch out My hand ' says Jehovah...

¹³ 'Against all from the small to the great...
All those who are filled with their lawless ways.

'For their priests and all their false prophets,
Have each acted in falsehood.

¹⁴ And although they claim to bring healing,
They're just treating [Me] with contempt.
They also claim there is peace...
But, where indeed is this peace?

¹⁵ 'So now they'll be shamed, because they have failed.
But, even though they'll be disgraced,
They'll refuse to accept their dishonor.
And because of this, they will fall...
They'll perish when I come to visit,' says Jehovah.

¹⁶ And the Lord said:
'Now, stand in the roads and behold...
[Consider the] paths of the ages;
Then choose the best road and travel that way,
As you search for ways to clean up your lives!'

'But because you have said, 'We won't go.'

¹⁷ Over you, I will appoint watchmen,
And you must listen for the sounds of their trumpets!'

But, though you will say, 'We won't listen!'

¹⁸ The nations [that are coming] will listen,
As will those who are tending their flocks.

¹⁹ 'O land, pay attention and look,
For I'm bringing what's bad on these people...
It's the fruitage of their rejection!
Because they've ignored My words and My Laws,
I have pushed them away.

²⁰ 'Why offer frankincense from SheBa to Me,
And cinnamon from far away lands?
For your whole burnt-offerings, I will not accept,
Since your sacrifices don't bring Me delight.

²¹ 'Because of this,' says Jehovah,
'Upon them, I will bring weakness.
Fathers and sons will be weak,
And their neighbors and loved ones will die.'

²² Then Jehovah said:
'{Look!} From the north, a people are coming,
Who'll awaken the nations to the ends of the earth...

²³ They'll come with their spears and their bows,
And they won't show any mercy.

'Their sound is like the roar of the sea.
And with horses and chariots, they will attack,
Bringing the fire of war against you,
O you daughter of Zion.

²⁴ 'About them, we've heard the reports,
And the things that we heard have made our hands weak...
Anguish has grabbed hold of us,
Like the pangs of a woman about to give birth!

²⁵ 'Don't go out into the fields,
And do not walk on the roads,
For they're filled with enemies carrying swords!

'So, O you daughters of My people;
[It's time for you] to wear sackcloth...
Strew ashes and mourn for your loved ones,

²⁶ And in pity for yourselves, beat your breasts;
For misery will suddenly come upon you.

²⁷ 'Among you (you people on trial),
I've appointed someone who'll judge;
And as you are tried, you will know I'm the One,
Who is judging your ways.

²⁸ 'Yet, none of you are willing to listen,

Since you're walking in ways that are crooked...
You're corrupted like brass touching iron.

²⁹ 'Because the forge bellows have failed,
It's in vain that the smith works his silver;
For their wicked ways will not melt.

³⁰ 'So, call out to them and then say,
That their silver has all been rejected...
Yes, they've been rejected by [God].'

Chapter 7

¹ Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh saying,
'Stand at the gate of [My Temple]
And against them, you must now read these words:

² 'O Judah; Hear the Word of the Lord,
For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl) says this:

³ *'Set right all the things that you're doing,
For if you choose to set your ways straight,
I'll settle you here in this place.*

⁴ *'Don't rely on your lies anymore;
For they'll be no help when you're shouting,
O the Temple of Jehovah!
O the Temple of [God]!*

⁵ *'You must change your deeds and your ways,
And get yourselves straightened out.
Each man must be fair with his neighbor,
⁶ And fair with foreigners, orphans, and widows.*

⁷ *'[You] may no longer be tyrants...
Innocent blood, don't shed in this place...
And stop chasing after strange gods!*

*'Then, [when all this] badness is gone,
I'll bring you back to this land once again,
Which I gave to your fathers through the ages.*

⁸ *'But now, you are trusting in words that are lies,
Which will do you no good at all.*

⁹ *You murder, commit adultery, and steal...
You swear oaths about things, when you're lying;
You also burn incense to BaAl,
And follow strange gods that you've never known.*

¹⁰ *'So, though there's just badness within you,
You still come here and stand before Me,
In the [Temple] that's called by My Name,
And you say, We are free from pollution.*

¹¹ *'Hasn't My House that's standing before you,
And which is called by My Name,
Become a den of those who would steal?
Look... I've seen it, says Jehovah!*

¹² *'Go to My old place in Shiloh,
Where I camped and placed My Name long ago,
And see what I did because of the bad,
In the face of IsraEl, My people!*

¹³ *'Now, because you have done all these things,
About which I spoke, but you failed to hear...
The things I shouted to you,
But to which, you failed to respond;
¹⁴ I'll do the same thing to this [Temple] ...
The one that is called by My Name,
And upon which you have relied...
The Place that I gave to your fathers and you.*

*'Yes I'll do to it as I once did to Shiloh,
¹⁵ And I'll throw you away from My face,
Like I cast off your brothers (Ephraim's seed).*

¹⁶ *'Now, you must not pray for these people...
Don't come and petition for mercy,
Nor approach Me with vows on their behalf,
For, I won't listen to you!*

¹⁷ *'Don't you see the things that they're doing
In all the cities of Judah,
And in JeruSalem's streets?*

¹⁸ *'The sons go out to gather the wood,
So their fathers can then light the fires,
[To bake] the dough that their women knead,
As cakes for the armies of the heavens.*

*'They offer drinks to strange gods,
So they can provoke Me to rage...*

¹⁹ *'Don't they provoke Me to rage,' asks Jehovah?
'But, shouldn't they be the ones who're provoked,
By the disgrace on their faces?*

²⁰ *'It's because of this,' says Jehovah,
'That I'll pour out My anger and rage on this Place...
Upon the men and their cattle;
Upon every tree in their fields;
As well as on the land's produce!
Yes, [the flame] has been kindled and it won't be put out!'*

²¹ *Jehovah said:
'Gather up all your burnt-offerings,*

With the rest of your other sacrifices;
Then, go on and eat all the meats!

²² 'For on the day that I led them from Egypt,
I didn't ask your fathers to offer such things...
I didn't tell them to bring Me,
Whole burnt offerings or other sacrifices.

²³ 'The only instructions I gave them,
Is to pay attention to the things that I say!
[I said], *You'll be My people and I'll be your God,*
As long as you walk in My ways,
And do whatever I tell you is good!

²⁴ 'But they didn't listen to Me,
And their ears just paid no attention;
They followed the evil thoughts in their hearts,
And became the butt not the head,
From the day that their fathers left Egypt 'til now.

²⁵ 'So I sent them My servants the Prophets,
Morning after morning, day after day.

²⁶ But they didn't listen to Me...
Their ears just paid no attention,
And their necks became stiffer than those of their fathers.

²⁷ 'So now, go and tell them these words,
Though they won't listen to you...
Call out to them, but they won't respond.

²⁸ 'Go tell them that theirs is the nation
That refused to hear the voice of their God...
They failed to believe or give heed,
To the instructions that came from [His] mouth.

²⁹ 'So, shear your [hair] and throw it away,
Then bring wailing sounds to your lips;
For Jehovah's rejected and He's pushed away
The generation that has done all these things!

³⁰ 'The sons of Judah are wicked before Me,' says Jehovah.
'For they've put disgusting things in My House,
To defile the Place that is called by My Name.

³¹ 'A shrine to Topheth, they've built for themselves,
There in the Valley of Hinnom's sons,
To burn their sons and daughters in fire...
Something that I never told them to do,
Or ever came into My heart.

³² '{Look!} And because they've done this, the days have arrived,' says Jehovah,
'When, in the Valley of Hinnom's sons,

And in that Shrine that they [built to] Topheth,
Nothing more will be heard.

'For their valley will soon be destroyed,
And they'll [bury] Topheth there in a tomb,
Since his place will no longer exist.

³³ 'His people will also be dead,
And they'll serve as food for the birds in the sky,
As well as for the beasts on the ground,
Since no one will come to chase them away.

³⁴ 'From the cities of Judah, I'll take them,
And from JeruSalem's streets.
Then the sounds of joy will be gone,
And the voices of brides and grooms won't be heard;
For the land will become desolation.'

Chapter 8

¹ 'During that time,' says Jehovah,
'They'll lift the bones of Judea's kings,
As well as the bones of its rulers,
Along with the bones of its Prophets and Priests,
And the bones of the rest of people,
Out of JeruSalem's graves.

² And there they will dry, under the sun...
Yes, under the moon and the stars,
Beneath the armies of the heavens,
Those that they loved and served...
Those whom they held to and followed,
And those before whom they bowed.

'So, they will not be lamented,
Nor will they be buried in tombs;
³ They'll just lie on the ground as examples,
For rather than life, they chose death.
So, all who remain of that generation,
Will be laid wherever I choose.'

⁴ Then the Lord asked:
'Will those who fall not be resurrected...
Will those who turned not return?

⁵ 'Why have they chosen rejection,
And held so firmly to their resolve...
Why haven't they wished to return?

⁶ 'Give ear, indeed, and pay close attention,
For they aren't saying what's right!
None have repented their badness,

Nor have they asked what they have done wrong...
They've just stopped running the race,
Like a horse that's snorting and covered with sweat.

⁷ 'The stork in the sky knows her time,
As do swallows and doves in the fields.
Even sparrows keep watch for the time [they will die]...
But My people do not understand,
The judgments that Jehovah has made.

⁸ 'So, how can they say, *We are wise,*
And we have the Law of Jehovah?
For, all these lies that are written,
By the quills of the scribes are in vain!

⁹ 'The wise are frightened and shamed,
Because they've rejected [God's] Word...
So what wisdom do they truly have?

¹⁰ 'I'll give their women to other men,
And I'll leave their fields to other men's heirs.
For, from the small to the great,
They've loved and chased after money;
And from prophet to priest, they all lie!

¹¹ 'They've dishonored the daughters of My people,
And they shout, *Peace! Peace!* when there's really no peace!

¹² 'By the disgusting things that they've done,
They have brought shame on themselves.
Yet, they're not ashamed of their shame...
They refuse to know any shame.

'And because of this, they will fall,
Along with all the rest that will fall...
In the time of my visit, they'll fall,' says the Lord.

¹³ 'And they will reap what they've [sown],' says Jehovah.'

There are no grapes on the grapevines,
And there are no figs on their trees,
For, all of their leaves have now dropped.

¹⁴ So, why are we just sitting here?
We can flee to the fortified cities!
But there, they'll just turn us away,
Because our God has disowned us.

Bile we'll be given for water,
Since we have sinned before [God].

¹⁵ And though we will gather for peace,
We will receive nothing good...
Just worry at a time we need healing.

¹⁶ From Dan, we'll hear sounds of swift horses
– The sounds of snorting and those riding steeds –
And then, the whole land will be shaken.

They'll come here and eat up our land,
Along with everything in it...
The cities and all those who dwell here.

¹⁷ '{Look!}' I'll send snakes against you to kill you
(The types that have never been charmed).

¹⁸ Then, they will incurably bite you,
Adding grief of hearts already perplexed.

¹⁹ 'Look! Hear these cries of My people's daughters,
Which will come from far-away lands:
*Isn't Jehovah on Zion,
And isn't there also a king?*

'But, they've provoked Me to rage,
With their carvings of idols,
And by following these strange, worthless things.'

²⁰ Summer has already passed,
And we've yet to receive any harvest.

²¹ About the destruction of my people's daughters,
I'm perplexed and wrapped up in darkness...
I'm in labor like a woman who's about to give birth.

²² In Gilead, there aren't any ointments,
Nor do they have any doctors.
So there will not be any healing,
For the daughters of my [beloved] people.

Chapter 9

¹ Who'll provide enough water to come from my head,
And feed the springs of tears from my eyes,
So I can cry day and night for my people...
For the daughters of my people who will be slain?

² And who'll provide me a hut in the desert,
Where I can escape from my people?
For, they are committing adultery,
And breaking [God's] Sacred Agreement.

³ 'Their tongues are stretched tight like bows,
As lies and mistrust now grow in the land;
For, they chase evil after evil...
And they no longer know Me,' says the Lord.

⁴ 'Each man should keep watch on his neighbor,
And not rely on even his brother;

For their brothers will stomp them under their heels,
And their friends will [try to] deceive them.

⁵ 'For they all just [laugh at] their friends,
And no way do they tell them the truth,
Since their tongues have learned to speak lies;
They do whatever is wrong;
And they never repent [the bad] that they've done.

⁶ 'They're compiling interest on interest,
And what is treacherous upon treachery;
For they do not wish to behold Me,' says [God].

⁷ 'Because of this,' says Jehovah of Armies;
'{Look!} I'll judge them and set them on fire!
What else can possibly I do,
In the face of these wicked ways,
Being done by the daughters of My people?

⁸ 'Why, their tongues are piercing like arrows,
And the words from their mouths are deceitful.
Though each one speaks of peace to his neighbors,
Inside, they really feel hatred.

⁹ 'So, shouldn't I pay them a visit,' asks Jehovah,
'And bring My vengeance upon them?'

¹⁰ '[It's time to] mourn for the mountains,
And time to wail for the roads in the desert.
They're failing, because there aren't enough men,
And they don't hear the sounds of birds in the skies...
Why, even the cattle are gone!

¹¹ 'Evacuation has come upon JeruSalem,
And she'll be a home for wild beasts.
I've appointed extinction to the cities of Judah,
And they will no longer be lived in.

¹² 'Now, who is the man that's discerning?
Let him recognize this...
May the words of Jehovah be with him,
So he can tell you the reasons
Why the land is being destroyed...
Being burned away into a desert,
So no one will go there again.'

¹³ And the Lord said to me:
'Because they've abandoned My Law
(The one I set in front of their faces),
And paid no attention to My voice,
¹⁴ Chasing after things that pleasure their hearts
(Things that are evil and idols,

Which their fathers had taught them to worship)...

¹⁵ 'On account of this,' says IsraEl's God
(Jehovah of Armies is His Name);
'{Look!} Upon distress, I will feed them,
And I'll make them drink bile for their water.

¹⁶ 'They'll be scattered among many nations,
(Those unknown to them and their fathers);
For against them, Im sending the sword,
Until they're completely consumed.'

¹⁷ Then the Lord said:
'Call for the women who wail...
Yes, shout and tell them to come!
Send for all the wise women...
Explain that it's their time to speak.

¹⁸ 'For, they should start their lamenting,
And start bringing tears to our eyes...
Cause water to flow from our eyelids!
¹⁹ For in Zion, this dirge will be heard:

*'How have we come to such misery?
We're disgraced, for we have abandoned our land,
And thrown away all our tents.*

²⁰ 'Listen to this, O you women;
For, it is the word of your God!
Let your ears hear the words from His mouth,
Then teach this lament to your daughters...
Let each one teach her neighbors to wail!

²¹ 'For, death has crept through your windows...
It has come to your land to wipe out your young,
And remove the young men from your squares.

²² 'Then all men must die on the face of the plains,
To set an example for those in your land;
And just like grass that's been mowed,
No one will go to collect them.'

²³ Then the Lord said this:
'Don't allow the wise to boast of their wisdom,
Nor let the mighty boast of their strength...
And don't let the rich boast of their wealth!
²⁴ For, when they boast, let them brag about this:

'That they perceive Me and know Me...
That they know of My mercy and fairness...
That I've judged to bring this land justice...
And these things being done, are My will,' says Jehovah.

²⁵ '{Look!}' For the days are coming,' says Jehovah,
'When I will visit the uncircumcised,
As well as the circumcised of Edom
²⁶ (Those in Judah, Egypt, and Edom;
The sons of AmMon and MoAb...
All who are shaving their faces,
And all who live in the deserts).
Though the flesh of the nations is uncircumcised,
IsraEl is uncircumcised in its heart.'

Chapter 10

¹ O house of IsraEl; Listen to the Word of Jehovah!
² Don't learn the ways of the gentiles,
And don't [follow] the [zodiac] signs...
These things that are feared by the nations,
³ For the customs of the nations are worthless!
An idol is a tree that they've cut from the woods,
Or it's something that someone has cast [in a mold].
⁴ They adorn them with silver and gold,
And then nail them into place with a hammer...
Make them stiff, so they cannot move.
⁵ They're just carved pieces of silver,
So they are unable to speak,
And then they have to be carried...
They can't lift themselves into place!
So you have no reason to fear them,
For nothing in them can do bad or good.
⁶ They aren't like You, O Jehovah;
For You're great... and great is the strength of Your Name.
⁷ Who won't fear You, O King of the Nations?
For to You, come the wise from all lands;
Because, in all of their kingdoms,
They have no gods that are like You.
⁸ [Their idols] are foolish and thoughtless,
Since trees can just teach foolish things.
⁹ It's by the hands of skilled goldsmiths,
That silver from Tarshish is melded,
Into gold that was taken from Uphaz
– It's all just the workings of craftsmen –
¹⁰ Then they deck those things in purple and blue.
¹¹ As the result, tell them this:
'Let these gods who can't make the skies or the ground
Be destroyed from all lands under heaven!'

¹² 'For it was Jehovah who made the earth,
And by His strength, He erected man's home.
Then, in His intelligence and wisdom,
He stretched the skies out above it.

¹³ 'He gathers all the waters under the skies,
And [assembles] the clouds to the ends of the earth.
He made the lightning and rain,
And from His treasuries, brought forth the winds.

¹⁴ 'The knowledge of men, He disgraces;
And the idols that they carve, shame the goldsmiths.
For false gods are just cast in ovens,
And there is no spirit within them.

¹⁵ 'They are foolish works that are made to be mocked;
And in the time of their visitation,
They will all be destroyed.

¹⁶ 'But, this isn't the portion of Jacob;
For the One who shaped everything
(IsraEl's inheritance and scepter),
Is named Jehovah of Armies!

¹⁷ And from the [nations], He will gather supporters,
Who will dwell among His elected.'

¹⁸ Then the Lord said:
'{Look!} I'll stumble all those who live in this land,
And squeeze them out, to [show what they've done].

¹⁹ So, woe to you, for you'll be destroyed,
And your wounds will be very painful.'

And I said: 'But I've already been wounded... and this has surely come from You! ²⁰ For my tent is in a miserable condition, it has been totally destroyed, its coverings of skins have been ripped apart, my sons and my sheep are all gone, there are no walls for my tent, and I have no place to store its coverings of leather! ²¹ Even my shepherds have been acting stupidly. For since they have also failed to search for Jehovah, they've allowed all of my sheep to be scattered and confused in their pastures.

²² '{Look!} There's been a report that the sounds of a great rumbling can be heard coming from the land in the north, where orders to have been given to come here and destroy our cities too... to scatter us like the nest of an ostrich!

²³ I know, O Lord, that our people don't know the right way to go, and we don't know how to walk a straight path. ²⁴ So correct us in fairness, O Jehovah... don't send Your rage and allow just a few of us to remain! ²⁵ Pour out Your rage on the nations [instead]... on those kingdoms that really don't know You, and on those who don't call on Your Name. For IsraEl has already been completely consumed, all of their pastures lie desolate... and now they're getting ready to come and consume the rest of Jacob!'

Chapter 11

¹ These words came to JeremiAh from Jehovah. He said, ² 'Listen to the words of My Sacred Agreement, then [read them] to the men of Judea and to those who live in JeruSalem. ³ Say, *IsraEl's God, Jehovah, said this:*

*'Cursed is the man who pays no regard,
To the words of this Sacred Agreement,
Which I gave to your fathers,
On the day that I led them from Egypt...
From out of that furnace of iron.*

⁴ *'Pay close attention to My voice,
And do all the things that I tell you to do,
Then, you'll be My people and I'll be your God.*

⁵ *'And I'll reestablish My oath
– The oath that I swore to your fathers –
To give them a land of honey and milk,
That flows to them as it does to this day.'*

And I replied, 'May it be, O my Lord.'

⁶ And the Lord said to me:
'Read these words to the cities of Judah,
As well as at JeruSalem's [walls].
Say, *Hear the words of the Sacred Agreement,
And then [be careful to] do them!*

⁷ *'For, we bore witness together
– And I testified to your fathers –
That, from the day that I led them from Egypt,
Down to this very day,
I arose early to serve as a witness.*

*'I told them to hear the words of my voice!
But, they wouldn't listen or turn an ear...
They just followed the evil ways of their hearts.*

*'They agreed to the words of this Contract,
And to the things that I said they must do;
⁸ But then, they just didn't do them.'*

⁹ And the Lord said to me:
'A conspiracy has been found among Judah's men,
And among those who live in JeruSalem!
¹⁰ For, they've gone back to the unrighteous ways of their fathers...
Those who were living before them,
And who also refused to listen to me.

'{Look!} Those in the houses of IsraEl and Judah,
Are following and serving strange gods...
They've annulled the Agreement that I made with their fathers!

¹¹ *'And because of this, says Jehovah;
{Look!} I will bring evil upon them,
Which they won't be able to remove.*

*'Then, once again, they'll start calling to Me,
But this time, I will not listen.*

¹² *And [what happens to] those in the cities of Judah,
Will [be worse] than for those in JeruSalem.*

*'So, they'll have to call out to their gods...
Those to whom they burn incense...
Those who can't save them in times of [distress].*

¹³ *'O Judah;
You have as many gods as you have towns,
And you have shrines on each of JeruSalem's streets,
Where you burn incense to BaAl.*

¹⁴ *'So, you must not pray for these people...
Don't beg or petition for them!
For, when they call, I won't listen,
In their time of distress.*

¹⁵ *'Disgusting things are now done in My House,
By those whom [I once dearly] loved!
So, will vows and holy meat atone for the bad?
Are you putting your hope in such things?*

¹⁶ *'As a pretty olive tree providing much shade,
Was the sight of all those who called on My Name.
Then came the sound of it being chopped down...
It was lit on fire [and burned].
So, all her tender branches were wasted.*

¹⁷ *'It was planted by Jehovah of Armies...
The One against whom they spoke evil.
So, on the houses of IsraEl and Judah,
There also came something that's evil,
Which they brought on themselves by provoking my rage...
By their burning incense to BaAl.'*

¹⁸ *[But I said]: 'O Lord; please tell me about it so I'll know, because only You are fully
aware of the things they're doing! ¹⁹ Why, I'm just an innocent lamb who doesn't know
that he's led to the sacrifice; for they're plotting and making plans against me, saying:
Come, let's give him wood for his bread...
From the land of the living, let's wipe him away,
And make sure that his name is forgotten!*

²⁰ *'O Jehovah of Armies; Please judge them fairly over such things... try their kidneys and
hearts! May I [live to] see Your punishment on them... but remember that I've acted
uprightly.'*

²¹ It was because of this that the Lord then replied concerning the men of AnathOth who were seeking my life. For these were the ones who were saying to me, 'Don't prophesy in the Name of Jehovah anymore, for if you do, we'll kill you!' ²² So Jehovah of Armies then said:

'Look! I'll pay them a visit,
Then, all their young men will die by the sword,
And their sons and daughters will starve.

²³ 'None of them will remain;
For to those who are living in AnathOth,
I will be bringing what's bad,
In the year of My visitation.'

Chapter 12

¹ [And I said]: 'You are righteous, O Lord; so let me plead my case before You, and then I'll leave it up to you to decide.

'Why do the irreverent [seem to] succeed?
For the wicked and disrespectful continue to prosper.

² Yet, they were planted and rooted by You,
And they produced children and fruitage.
So, it seems as though You are near to their mouths,
But far away from their kidneys.

³ 'You know me, O Lord,
And before You, my heart has been tried.
So, may they be gathered like flocks,
And then made holy for slaughter!

⁴ 'How long will the land have to mourn,
And all the grass in the fields become dry,
Because of their evil deeds?
Though they offer their cattle and birds;
They say that God can't see what they're doing.'

⁵ [And the Lord replied]:
'Since your feet get tired when they run;
How can you be ridden like a horse?
Why have you trusted that there will be peace,
And why do you whinny for the Jordan?

⁶ 'For, even your brothers and the house of your father,
Have failed to pay attention to you...
Behind your back, they are yelling at you!
So, don't trust them when they speak kind words.'

⁷ [And I said]:
'I have abandoned my home...
My inheritance, I have forsaken...
And into the hands of her enemies,

I've given the love of my life.

⁸ 'For [she], (my inheritance) has become,
Like a lion that lives in the woods...
She roared, so I started to hate her.

⁹ 'She's become a den of hyenas,
And [this den] has is now her protection.
So, gather to her the beasts of the fields,
And let them go there to eat her!'

¹⁰ [And the Lord replied]:
'My vineyard's been destroyed by its shepherds...
Yes, my portion, they have defiled...
What was mine, they've turned into a desert!

¹¹ 'So, destruction and extinction is what I have planned.
And because of me, the land will soon be destroyed.
Yet, the people didn't take this to heart.

¹² 'Then, through every pass in that desert,
Will come those who bring misery...
Yes, those who will use my sword to consume.
And from one end of the land to the other,
There'll be no peace for all flesh.

¹³ 'For, though I planted wheat, thorn-bushes [grew];
So, all of this did no good.
Therefore, be ashamed of your prideful words,
And for speaking in scorn to Jehovah!'

¹⁴ Then the Lord said:
'When it comes to the wicked around you
(Those who touched my belongings...
IsraEl, my people and portion);
{Look!} From their land, I will uproot them...
From its midst, I'll uproot the people of Judah.

¹⁵ 'But, after I drive them away,
I will let them return,
And I will show mercy upon them.
I'll let them return and resettle,
In the land they received from their fathers...
I'll return each one to his [home].

¹⁶ 'And if my people should learn the right way,
And start swearing their oaths by [God's] Name...
If they'll say, *As Jehovah is living*,
As they're now swearing by BaAl;
I'll let them return and rebuild their homes.

¹⁷ 'But, if they should choose not to return,

I will lift that nation away...
'I'll remove them and I will destroy them,' said the Lord.

Chapter 13

¹ Then the Lord said:

'Go buy a loin cloth of linen,
And thereafter, wrap it around you...
But, do not wash it in water.'

² So I went out and bought the loincloth, just as I was told by the Word of the Lord, and I wrapped it around my loins.

³ Then the Word of Jehovah came to me a second time saying:

'Now, you should take off the loincloth
(The one that you've wrapped 'round your loins),

⁴ Then, get up and go to the EuPhrates River,
And hide it in a hole in the rocks!'

⁵ So I went and hid it by the EuPhrates, as the Lord had told me to do.

⁶ Then after many days, the Lord said to me:

'Get up and go to the River EuPhrates...
Go search and bring back that loincloth...
The one that I told you to hide there.'

⁷ So I went back to the EuPhrates and dug up the loincloth from the place where I'd hidden it... and {Look!} it was ruined... there's no way that it could have been used after that!

⁸ Then the Word of the Lord came to me and told me, ⁹ 'This is what Jehovah has said:

*'Like this, I'll corrupt the insolence of Judah,
Because of JeruSalem's insolent ways...*

*¹⁰ The insolence of those who don't wish to obey...
Those who follow the wicked ways of their hearts,
By chasing and serving strange gods,
Then bowing to their faces before them.*

*'They will become like this loincloth,
Which will never be useful again.*

*¹¹ For, just as this cloth hugs the loins of a man;
I've stuck by the houses of IsraEl and Judah, says Jehovah.*

*'They'd have been a famous people to me,
And a reason for boasting and glory...
But, they just paid no attention.*

¹² 'So, speak these words to those people.
Say that IsraEl's God, Jehovah, says this:
Your leather bags will be filled with wine!

'And when they ask,
Aren't you aware that we already know,

*That our leather bags will be filled with wine?
Why have you have said this to us?*

¹³ *'Then, tell them that thus says Jehovah:
{Look!} I'll fill all who live in this land with strong drink...
And their kings (David's sons) who sit on their thrones,
As well as their priests and their prophets,
Along with all those in Judah,
And those who dwell in JeruSalem.*

¹⁴ *'Then, I will send them away...
Each man will be torn from his brother,
And fathers will be torn from their sons.
And thereafter, I will not miss them, says Jehovah...
I won't spare them or pity their ruin.'*

¹⁵ *'Hear... yes listen, and then give up hope!
For, this is what Jehovah has said:*

*'Give glory to Jehovah, your God!
¹⁶ Give glory before it gets dark...
Before your feet stumble amid mountain shade,
Where you'll wait for light in the shadow of death,
But where you'll only find darkness!*

¹⁷ *'For, if you should choose not to listen,
You'll weep in secret, because of your pride;
And there, your eyes will shed tears,
For the scattering of the flock of Jehovah.*

¹⁸ *'Now, go and tell the king this:
Your rulers must sit down and humble themselves,
For their wreaths of glory will be smashed from their heads.*

¹⁹ *'The cities toward the south will be closed,
And not be opened again.
Judah will then be resettled,
In a complete relocation.*

²⁰ *'So, raise your eyes, O JeruSalem,
And see what's coming to you from the north!*

*'Now, where is the flock you were given...
[Yes, where are] the sheep of your glory?
²¹ What will you say when these people arrive,
And you'll be forced to teach them hard lessons,
Against yourself and your rule?*

*'Won't labor pangs then control you,
As though you're a woman about to give birth?*

²² *'And if you should ask in your heart,
Why has this happened to me?*

*It's because your sins have been great!
So, your butt will now be uncovered,
To be an example to your heels.*

²³ *'If Ethiopians could change their skin color,
Or leopards could change all their spots;
You'd also be able to do what is good,
And learn [not to do] any evil.*

²⁴ *'This is how your people will be scattered by Me...
Like twigs that are blown in the desert by wind.*

²⁵ *Yes, this is your portion and lot,
Because of the ways you've opposed Me, says Jehovah.*

'For, you forgot Me and trusted in lies.

²⁶ *So, to your faces, I'll now show your butts...
Your dishonor will be exposed before all.*

²⁷ *'For I've seen your snorting and adultery...
Your disgusting acts and your whoring,
That you've done in your hills and your fields.*

*'So, woe to you, O JeruSalem,
Because, you're too dirty to come after Me,
And for you, there's no longer hope!'*

Chapter 14

¹ **Then the Word of Jehovah came to me (JeremiAh) concerning the drought, [For I had said:]**

² *'Judah now mourns, for she has empty gates,
And the land is enveloped in darkness,
As cries ascend from JeruSalem.*

³ *'Her great ones send young men for water,
Who find nothing when they get to the wells;
So, they just bring back empty jars.*

⁴ *'All the works in the land have now failed,
Because, there has been no rain.
So the farmers are shamed and they cover their heads.*

⁵ *'And when the hinds in the prairies give birth,
They just abandon their young;
For there's not enough [grass] in the fields.*

⁶ *'Wild burros in the woods must suck wind;
And because there is so little hay,
The eyes of all the wild beasts have all failed.*

⁷ *'Because of our sins, [You've] opposed us, O Lord;
But, help us for the sake of Your Name.
However, our errors are many,*

And we're [guilty] of sinning against You.

⁸ 'But, Lord; You are IsraEl's endurance...
In hard times, You've been our Savior.
So, why are You being a stranger to us...
Like a native-born son on vacation?

⁹ 'Are You like a man who is sleeping,
Or are You someone who's able to save us?
For You've been among us, O Lord,
And we are called by Your Name;
So, You should never forget us!

¹⁰ And the Lord replied concerning these people:
'They've [sinned] and they have spared no one;
So, God hasn't prospered their ways,
And He is recalling their sins...
For their errors, He's now come to visit.'

¹¹ Then the Lord told me:
'Don't request good things for these people;
¹² For when they fast, I won't hear their prayers;
And if they should bring sacrifices,
I will not think well of them.
I'll just finish them off by the sword,
As well as by famine and [plague].'

¹³ And I said:
'O Great Being... O Lord; our prophets have said that we won't ever see the sword and
that we'll never go hungry, for you're going to bring peace to our land!'

¹⁴ And then the Lord told me:
'Those who prophesy this in [God's] Name,
Are all [in fact], telling lies;
For, I did not really send them,
Nor did I tell them what they should say.

'So the visions that they have are all lies;
And the manifestations and omens,
To which they have prophesied,
Are just things that have come from their hearts.

¹⁵ 'And because of this,' says Jehovah;
'Tell those who prophesy lies in My Name
(Those whom I didn't send):
*[You've said] that famine and the sword
Will never come to this land;
So you prophets will die by diseases,
And I'll finish what's left by starvation!*

¹⁶ 'Yes, you who prophesied this,
Will be die by the sword and by famine;

Then your bodies will be tossed in JeruSalem's streets.

*'You won't be buried in tombs...
Nor will your wives, sons, or daughters;
For I'll pour your own badness upon you!*

¹⁷ 'Then you must tell them this:
*Fill your eyes with tears day and night,
And don't bring an end to your crying!
For, to the daughter of My people will just come defeat...
Yes, they will be horribly beaten!*

¹⁸ *'So, if you go out to the fields,
You'll just see those slain by the sword.
And if you enter the cities,
You'll just see the misery of famine.
Then, to a land that you do not know,
They'll take your priests and your prophets!'*

¹⁹ [And I said:] 'Then, are You rejecting all of Judah and have You removed Your Person from Zion? Why are You striking us instead of healing us? For though we've waited for peace, nothing good has happened... [yes, we're waiting for] healing, but all we're finding is that things are just getting worse!

²⁰ 'We're aware, O Lord, of our errors and of the sins of our fathers... yes, we know that before You, we're guilty of many sins. ²¹ But please back off because of Your Name... don't destroy Your glorious throne! Please remember Your Sacred Agreement... don't wipe it away!

²² 'For, which idol of the nations can bring rain... yes, which one can bring what they say they'll bring to the skies? Who other than You can accomplish such things... [yes, who other than] Jehovah our God? Therefore, we'll continue to wait for You, since You're the One who created it all!'

Chapter 15

¹ And the Lord said to me:
*'If you'd put SamuEl and Moses before me,
Even for them, my soul wouldn't change.
So, send these people away from my face...
Yes, let them [be carried away]!*

² 'And if they should ask, *Where will we go?*
You should tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'As many as are [appointed for] death,
[Are the number of those] who will die;
As many as are [appointed] to the sword,
[Are the numbers of those] who will die by the sword;
As many as are [appointed] to famine,
[Are the numbers of those] who will starve;
And as many as are [appointed] as captives,*

[Are the numbers of those] who'll be carried away.'

³ *'And Jehovah said:*

I will take vengeance in four different ways:

- They'll be put to death by the sword*
- They'll be torn to pieces by dogs*
- They'll serve as prey for wild beasts*
- Or they'll be rotting flesh for the birds in the skies.*

⁴ *'To many distresses, I'll hand them,
To all kingdoms throughout the whole earth,
Because of ManasSeh, king of Judah
(The son of King HezekiAh),
And for all that he did in JeruSalem.*

⁵ *'O JeruSalem, who will spare you?
Yes, who will be timid against you,
And who will say, May you have peace?
For to Me, you have turned [your backs], says Jehovah.*

⁶ *'So, you will be [forced to] retreat;
Then I'll stretch out My hand to destroy you,
And I will not spare you thereafter.*

⁷ *'I will scatter and disperse,
Those inside the gates of My people.
And they will all become childless...
They'll destroy My people, because they're so bad.*

⁸ *'There'll be more widows than the sands of the seas...
To mothers of young men, I will send misery...
I'll bring trembling and anxiety upon them at noon.*

⁹ *'Then the one who bore seven, will have none,
For her life will meet with misfortune,
And her sun will set at midday.
She'll be disgraced and berated,
And I'll give what is left to the sword, says Jehovah.'*

¹⁰ *So, woe to you, O mother who bore me;
For, I am a man who must judge,
And bring what's bad to this land.*

*Yet, none of this will benefit me,
For no one has offered to help me,
And I'm weakened by all those who curse me.*

¹¹ *So, may it be, O Jehovah the Almighty...
May they get no help in their time of distress,
And may their enemies bring them no good.*

¹² Let them know that [You are like] iron,
And Your strength is like a robe made of brass.

¹³ [Then the Lord said this concerning the people]:
'Because of the sins in your borders,
I'll give all your treasures to them.

¹⁴ Before them, you will be slaves,
And you'll live in lands that you've never known.
For a fire will soon burn among you,
Which will be lit by my rage.'

¹⁵ O Lord, please don't forget me...
Save me from those who pursue me...
Please don't hold back [your hand]!
It's because of You, that I'm hated,

¹⁶ By those who've not heeded Your Words.

If You'll completely finish them off,
Your words will bring joy to my heart.
For, O Jehovah the Almighty;
I'm a man who is called by Your Name!

¹⁷ Among those who mocked You, I haven't sat,
And before Your hand, I was cautious.
I sat by myself all alone,
Filled with great indignation.

¹⁸ Why are those who bring grief [allowed to] prevail?
For my wounds have been so severe...
And where can I go to be healed?

All of this is untested water to me...
It's something that I cannot trust.

¹⁹ Then the Lord said:
'If you should ever return [to this land],
I'll return all that you've owned,
And before My face, you'll then stand.
If you'll separate those who are worthy
From all the rest who are not,
You will then serve as My mouth.

'But, though they may come before you,
You must not go before them.

²⁰ For, to these people, I've made you,
A fortified wall of forged brass.

'And though they'll wage war against you,
They won't be able to beat you,
Because I'll be there to save you.

'I'll rescue you,' said [the Lord]...

I'll deliver you from their wicked hands,
And ransom you from these cursed people.'

Chapter 16

¹ Then the Word of the Lord came to me saying:

² 'Do not take another wife in this place,
And don't father daughters or sons.

³ For, concerning the sons and daughters,
Who've been born in this place...
And concerning the mothers who gave them birth,
And those in this land who are fathers:

⁴ 'They'll die by death and disease,
And not be entombed or lamented.
As examples, they'll lie on the face of the ground!

'[Most] will fall by the sword,
And starvation will kill all the rest.
Their corpses will serve as food for wild beasts,
And for the birds in the skies.'

⁵ And the Lord told me:
'Don't join in their [funeral processions],
And for them, don't mourn or lament,
Since I'm the one who took peace from these men,
Along with compassion and mercy.

⁶ 'So, the great and the small of this land will all die,
And they won't be lamented or buried...
No one will beat their chests over them,
Nor cut on themselves or shave their heads.

⁷ 'No way will there be feasts of mourning...
No bread will be broken in consolation,
For those who are mourning their dead;
Nor will a drink be provided,
Over the deaths of fathers and mothers.

⁸ 'Don't enter their homes for a banquet...
Don't sit down with them to eat or to drink;

⁹ For thus says Jehovah, IsraEl's God:

*'{Look!} Before your eyes, I'll remove them,
And during your [life, this will happen].
There'll be no sounds of gladness or joy,
Nor the voices of grooms and their brides.*

¹⁰ 'Now, when you say such things to these people, they'll ask:

Why has Jehovah pronounced such bad things?

For what wrong have we really done...

How have we sinned against God?

¹¹ 'And when they ask, this must be your reply:
*It's because your fathers have left Me, says Jehovah;
And they have followed strange gods...
They bowed before them and served them...
They've abandoned Me and not kept My Laws...
¹² And you're even more wicked than them!*

*'{Look!} You've chased the evil that pleases your hearts,
And you have refused to obey Me.
¹³ So I'll drive you away from this land,
To a land that is strange to your fathers and you,
Where you'll serve strange gods day and night...
Those who will show you no mercy!*

*¹⁴ 'Yes, because of this, days will come, says Jehovah;
When they'll say, As Jehovah is living...
The One who led IsraEl from Egypt.
¹⁵ But then, they will also be saying:
As Jehovah is living...
The One who led the house of IsraEl back,
From the lands in the north,
And from everywhere else they were taken.
For then, I will bring them back to their land...
This land that I gave to their fathers.*

*¹⁶ '{Look!} To them, I will send men who fish, says Jehovah,
And they will go fishing for them.
I will also send hunters,
Who'll hunt for them on the mountains and hills,
And in the holes among rocks.*

*¹⁷ 'But My eyes are now watching their ways,
And they can't hide their offenses from Me.
¹⁸ So, for all of their unrighteous ways...
For the sins with which they've ruined My land...
For the disgusting things of their rotting flesh...
And for filling My inheritance with their lawless deeds;
I will pay them back double!*

*¹⁹ 'But thereafter, they will be saying,
O Lord, our strength and our helper...
Our refuge during hard times;
To You, all the nations will come,
From the ends of the earth.*

*'And they each will also be saying:
How false were the idols our fathers acquired;
Because, in them, there was no hope at all...*

*²⁰ Though each man made his own gods,
None of these proved to be gods.*

*²¹ '{Look!}' At that time, I will show them My hand...
And I will show them My might.
Then they'll learn that My Name is Jehovah!'*

Chapter 17

¹ Thus says Jehovah:

'All of Judah's sins have been written,
With a stylus of iron...
In the tablets of their hearts, they've been clawed,
And upon the horns of their altars.

² 'So their sons will remember their altars,
As well as their sacred poles,
Which were found under every tree in the woods,
And upon every high hill.

³ 'And on your mountains, there in the plains,
I'll hand over your wealth and treasures as loot,
For the sins [you've committed] upon their high peaks.

⁴ 'Then the inheritance I gave you, will all be gone,
And you'll have to serve people who hate you,
In a land that you've never known.
For you've kindled the fire of My wrath,
Which will blaze against you through the rest of this age.'

⁵ Thus says Jehovah:

'Cursed is the man who has any hope;
For, though his flesh is still on his arms,
His heart is far from Jehovah.

⁶ So he'll be like a tree in the desert,
And when good things arrive, he won't see them.
In a desert of salt, he'll be planted...
In a brackish land, where no one has lived.

⁷ 'But, praised is the man who relies on the Lord,
And puts all his hope in Jehovah.

⁸ For he'll be like a tree that was planted near water,
And shoots its roots into moisture.

'He'll have no fear of sweltering heat,
And grow fat like a tree in the woods.
He'll have nothing to fear in the year of the drought,
And he'll keep on producing his fruit.

⁹ 'The heart is the deepest of all things;
So, who can know [what's inside] a man?

¹⁰ But I Jehovah, examine the hearts,
I also put the kidneys on trial,
And repay each one for his ways...

By the fruits of the things he has done.

¹¹ 'As partridges call to [eggs] that won't hatch,
So is the man that's rich but unfair.
For, in the last half of his days,
He will lose all his wealth,
Which [will prove] that he's been a fool.'

¹² [O Lord];
Our Holy Place is Your glorious throne,
Which, since ancient times, we've held in esteem.

¹³ Yet, IsraEl still awaits the disgrace,
Which will come upon those who have left You.

So, may the names of those who've rebelled,
Be written deep under the ground;
For they've left their Lord and the source of their life!

¹⁴ Make the Sabbath days holy once more...
Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed...
Save me and I'll be delivered,
For You are my reasons for boasting!

¹⁵ 'Look,' they say; 'Where is this Word of the Lord?
May [whatever He says] come upon us!'

¹⁶ But I've never tired of following You,
And I've not desired the ways of those men.

You know all the things that have come from my lips...
Before Your face, they're all here!

¹⁷ So, please don't push me away...
Protect me in that bad day!

¹⁸ May those who chase me be shamed,
And may I not bring disgrace on myself.
May they all come to know terror;
But, may I never know terror.
Bring that bad day upon them...
Yes, double the destruction upon them!

¹⁹ And then the Lord then told me:
'Go stand at the gates of the sons of your people
(The gates that the kings of Judah walk through...
All those gates through which they must pass).
Go and stand at each one of those gates,

²⁰ Then this is what you should say:

*'O you kings of Judea...
Yes you kings of Judah and JeruSalem,
And all others who enter these gates;
Hear the Word of Jehovah!*

²¹ *For [our God] Jehovah said this:*

'Save your souls...
Don't carry loads on the Sabbaths...
Carry nothing at all through JeruSalem's gates...
²² Carry nothing from your homes on the Sabbaths,
And do not do any work!
Keep the Sabbath days holy;
For that's what I said to your fathers!'

²³ *'But, they'll not turn an ear to listen to you...
They'll have stiffer necks than their fathers...
They'll not pay attention or do what you say.'*

²⁴ Then the Lord [told me to say this]:
'If you will just listen to Me,
And not carry goods through these gates on the Sabbaths...
If you'll treat the Sabbaths as holy,
By refusing to do any work;
Then, kings and rulers will enter these gates,
Who will sit upon David's throne.

²⁵ 'They'll come with horses and chariots;
And I will appoint them as rulers,
Over Judah as well as JeruSalem;
Then they'll settle in this city through the age.

²⁶ 'At that time, [the people] will come,
From Judah and from JeruSalem.
From the land of BenJamin, they'll also come,
And from the mountains and fields in the south.

'They will bring their burnt-offerings,
Along with incense and frankincense,
As well as offerings of praise and thanksgiving,
To the Temple of [God].

²⁷ 'But, if you should choose not to listen,
And not treat My Sabbaths as holy...
If you continue to lift and tote loads,
Through JeruSalem's gates on the Sabbaths;
I'll kindle a fire inside of its gates,
To devour JeruSalem's plazas...
A fire that can't be extinguished!'

Chapter 18

¹ This message came to JeremiAh from Jehovah. ² He said:
'Get up and go to the house of the potter,
And hear the words that I'll say there.'

³ So I went to the house of the potter, and {Look!} there I found the man making a [pot]

on his stone. ⁴ However, the pot that he was making fell apart, so he reshaped it into one that he was pleased with.

⁵ It was then that the Word of the Lord came to me saying:

⁶ 'Now, Jehovah asks this:

*O you house of IsraEl;
Can't I reshape you in the same way,
As the potter just [reshaped this pot]?
For, O house of IsraEl;
{Look!} As clay in the hands of a potter,
Is what you are in My hands.*

⁷ 'So, when I speak of bringing an end,
To any nation or kingdom,
And I plan to destroy them and lift them away;
⁸ If that nation should turn from doing what's bad,
I will then change My mind
About the bad things I'd planned.

⁹ 'So if I speak of building a nation or kingdom,
¹⁰ And they [choose to be] wicked before Me,
Refusing to hear what I say;
About the good things, which I had planned,
I will then change My mind.

¹¹ 'So, say this to those men of Judea,
And to those who live in JeruSalem...
Tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'{Look!} I will shape bad things against you,
And devise against you, a plot,
Unless you turn from your evil ways,
And change your bad ways to good!'*

¹² But they replied:

'We'll act like men and we'll do as we please...
We'll do whatever is bad in our hearts!'

¹³ Because of this, thus said the Lord:
'Go and ask the gentiles this question:
*Have you ever heard better reasons to shudder,
Than what IsraEl, the virgin, has done?*

¹⁴ *'Will snow leave the rocks on the mountains...
Will rain not fall when it's blown by the wind?*

¹⁵ *Yet, by My own people, I've been forgotten.
So it's in vain that they burn incense to Me,
And they'll now grow weak in their paths.*

*'On the roads of the ages, they will not walk;
For, since they don't know the right way to go,*

¹⁶ *They've ordered an extinction upon their own land...*

A hissing [that will last] through the age.

*'Then, all who go there will be stupefied,
And they will just shake their heads.*

*¹⁷ Since enemies will blow out [My people],
As though they are flames in the wind,
I'll show them the rear not the front,
In the day that they are destroyed.'*

¹⁸ Then [the people] started saying: 'We need to come up with a plot [to destroy] JeremiAh, for the Law will never pass away, nor will the wisdom or words of [our] prophets. Come on, let's beat him on his tongue so we won't have to listen to his words anymore!'

¹⁹ Hear me, O Lord; Hear the [results] of my righteous deeds! ²⁰ Should I be repaid with evil for good [that I'm doing]? Why, they're meeting and talking about doing something evil to my soul!

Remember [all the times] that I stood before You and asked You to do good things for them... when I urged You to turn from Your rage against them! ²¹ But now, because of [these things that they're doing], please bring a famine upon all their sons and hand them over to those who are carrying swords! Let their women become childless and widows... may all of their husbands be killed, and may all their young men fall by the sword! ²² Yes, let there be cries in their homes as You set looters upon them, for now they're plotting to arrest me, and they're hiding snares to catch me!

²³ You know, O Lord, that they're planning to kill me, so don't overlook their errors and sins, and wipe them away from before You. Let their failures remain in Your [eyes], and then deal with them in the day of Your rage!

Chapter 19

¹ Then the Lord said to me:
'Go buy a shaped earthen pitcher,
From the elders of the people and the priests.

² Then go to the graveyard of Hinnom's sons,
Which is at the threshold of the East Gate,
And read all these words that I'll tell you:

³ 'Say, *O you kings of Judea,
And you who live in JeruSalem;
Hear the word of Jehovah!
For, this was said by Jehovah of Armies...
Yes the God of IsraEl said that,
{Look!} He'll bring such bad to this place,
That it'll ring in the ears of those hearing about it.*

⁴ *For, they have left Him and [chosen] this place,
To burn incense to their strange gods
(Gods that their fathers never knew).
And the kings of Judah have filled up this place,*

With the blood of innocent men.

⁵ *'Here, they've built [altars] to BaAl,
And they've burned their sons in a fire...
Something that He never spoke of,
And never told them to do,
Or which ever came into His heart!*

⁶ *'And because of this, days will come, said the Lord,
'When they'll no longer call this place [The Valley],
Nor The Graveyard of Hinnom's sons.
It'll be called, The Graveyard of Slaughter!*

⁷ *'For there, I'll slay the counselors of Judah,
As well as those of JeruSalem...
Before their enemies, I'll cut them down,
Through the hands of those who are seeking their lives.
Then I'll hand their dead as food for the birds,
And the wild beasts of the ground.*

⁸ *'I'll order the extinction of this city...
It'll be just a place where hissing is heard.
And all who come here will look at it sadly,
Then whistle at its disaster.*

⁹ *'Here they'll eat the flesh of their daughters and sons,
And in their strongholds, the flesh of their neighbors,
When their enemies (those seeking their lives) have arrived.*

¹⁰ *'Then, break that pitcher in front of their eyes,
And before all those who've come with you.*

¹¹ *Then tell them that thus says Jehovah:*

*'This is how I will do it;
I'll break your city and its people,
Just like this pot has been shattered,
So that it can not be repaired.
They'll be buried here in this place,
Where [they now play] tambourines...
There'll be no other place to be buried.*

¹² *'Jehovah says:*

*This is what I will do to this place,
And to everyone who now lives there...
I'll hand this city to destruction...*

¹³ *Yes, all of JeruSalem's homes,
And the palaces of all its rulers.*

*'They will all fall into ruin,
Because of the bad things they've done here.
For here, they've burned incense on roofs,
To all the [Zodiac signs],*

And offered drinks to strange gods.'

¹⁴ Then JeremiAh left [the valley] where Jehovah had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the courtyard of the [Temple] of Jehovah and said this to all the people there:

'Thus says Jehovah of Armies:

{Look!} I'll bring calamity on this city,

And to the rest of its cities and towns.

I'm bringing all the evils that I've spoken against her;

For, you have hardened your necks,

And not listened to the instructions that I sent.'

Chapter 20

¹ Well, when Pashur, the son of ImMer the Priest (who had been anointed as the leader of the Temple of Jehovah) heard what JeremiAh was prophesying, ² he had him beaten and thrown into the dungeon near the Upper Gate of the House of BenJamin, which was near the Temple of Jehovah.

³ Then the next morning, as Pashur was leading JeremiAh out of the dungeon, JeremiAh said to him:

'Jehovah won't call your name Pashur,
But rather, you'll be called Refugee.

⁴ Because Jehovah says this:

{Look!} I'll hand over you and your friends,

To be taken away from this place,

Where they'll fall by their enemy's swords...

And your eyes will see it all happen.

'Then, I will hand Judah to Babylon's king,

And he'll move the people away,

Or cut them to pieces with swords.

⁵ *'I'll remove the strength from this city*

– All its works and all the king's treasures –

And put them into their enemy's hands.

'To Babylon, they will be led;

⁶ *Then, you and all who live in your house,*

Will be taken to Babylon as captives,

And there is where you will die...

It's where you'll be entombed along with your friends,

To whom you prophesied lies.'

⁷ Then I said: 'You've deceived me, O Lord... yes, I was truly deceived! Though You've held on and won, I'm the butt of their laughter every day and I'm the one at whom they're all sneering! ⁸ So from here on in, I'm just going to laugh at the bitterness and call for more misery and rebellion. Since, all that speaking the Word of Jehovah has brought me is scorn and taunting each day.'

⁹ And I said: 'There's no way that I'm going to [speak of] Jehovah anymore... I won't even mention His Name!' However, soon it became like a fire that burned and blazed in my

bones and made me weak on the inside, until I was no longer able to bear it. [So I said:]

¹⁰ 'I've heard that they've said in their meetings:

Let's all rise up against him...

Yes, let's stand together against him,

As well as against all his friends.

'Let's ignore what he says will be coming...

Yes, let him keep being deceived.

For against him, we will prevail,

And then, we'll take vengeance upon him.

¹¹ 'However, Jehovah is with me,

As a warrior who's making me strong.

So, they have chased me in vain,

And though they will all come to shame,

They'll fail to see their dishonor,

Which will be remembered through ages.

¹² 'O Lord;

Try me according to Your righteous ways...

Examine my kidneys and heart.

May I see Your punishment on them...

For before You, I've laid out my pleas for defense.

¹³ 'So, sing to Jehovah and praise Him,

Because He'll save the lives of the poor,

From the hands of those who have power!

¹⁴ 'O cursed is the day I was born...

May the day that my mother gave birth,

Never be longed for again!

¹⁵ 'And may that person be cursed,

Who brought the news to my father:

Rejoice, for you have a male child!

¹⁶ May he be as the cities that did not repent,

Which will be destroyed by Jehovah!

'Let Him hear their cries in the mornings,

As well as their shouting at noon!

¹⁷ For he failed to kill me in my mother's womb,

Which would serve as my tomb through the ages.

¹⁸ 'Why did I come from the womb...

Just to see all this misery,

And to spend all my days in such shame?'

Chapter 21

¹ The following are the words that came to JeremiAh from Jehovah after King ZedekiAh had sent Pashur (the son of MelchiAh) and ZephaniAh (the son of MaAseJah) the Priest to him to say this: 'Go beg to Jehovah for us, because the king of Babylon has us

surrounded. [Ask] if the Lord will send wonders and drive that king from [our walls].'

³ So the Lord told JeremiAh, 'Say this to King ZedekiAh:

*'I'll turn back the weapons of war in your hands,
Which you're using to fight those Chaldeans,
Who have come to oppress you,
And who are outside of your walls;
⁴ Then I'll bring them into your city.*

*⁵ 'For, I will wage war against you,
With an outstretched hand and My mighty arm,
In [My] anger and rage.*

*⁶ 'I'll strike all those who live in this city,
In a slaughter of men and their cattle...
Yes, soon they all will be slaughtered.*

*⁷ 'And then, said Jehovah,
I'll hand over Judah's King ZedekiAh,
As well as all of his servants,
Along with those that live in this city,
Who survive death from the famine,
And the swords in the hands of those seeking their lives.*

*'By the mouth of the sword, they'll cut them to bits...
They will not spare or feel pity.*

*⁸ 'Then, speak to these people and tell them...
Yes, tell them that thus says Jehovah:*

*'{Look!} Before your faces, I've put life and death.
⁹ And those who stay in this city,
Will die by the famine and sword.
But, those who leave to join the Chaldeans...
(The men who have you surrounded) will live!
Your [reward] will be your own lives!*

*¹⁰ 'For against this city, I've set My face,
To do just bad things, not good, says Jehovah.
It's going to be handed to Babylon's king,
And he will burn it with fire.'*

*¹¹ O house of the king of Judea;
Hear the Word of Jehovah!*

*¹² And to you, O house of David;
Against you, Jehovah said this:*

*'In the morning, discuss the judgment on you,
Then, get yourselves straightened out.
Rescue those being shredded,
From the hands of those who are doing them wrong!*

'Don't let My anger be lit like a fire;
For, after it has been kindled,
No one will come to put it out!

¹³ 'Look... it's Me that's coming against you,
Yes, you who live on that [rock],
And you who live in the plains...
Those who ask, *Whom must we fear?*
And, *Who will enter our homes?*

¹⁴ 'Yes, I am the One who is watching,
And the One who is lighting the fire,
Which will burn everything that's around [you]!'

Chapter 22

¹ Then the Lord said,
'Go to the [palace] of Judea's king,
And these are the words you must speak there:

² 'O you king of Judea;
Hear the Word of Jehovah,
You who are sitting upon David's throne...
Yes you, as well as your servants,
And the people who enter these gates!

³ 'Jehovah says:
*You must [learn to] be righteous and fair,
And rescue those being plundered,
From the hands of those who are doing them wrong!*
*'Don't tyrannize strangers, orphans, or widows...
Be irreverent no more...
And stop shedding innocent blood in this place!*

⁴ 'For, if you [continue] doing such things,
*Their kings will enter the gates of this house,
And on David's throne, they will sit.
Yes they, their children, and people,
Will arrive on chariots and horses.*

⁵ 'If you choose to pay Me no heed,
*I swear this oath by Myself, says Jehovah:
On your house, I'll bring desolation!'*

⁶ And the Lord said this against the [palace] of the king of Judah:
'You're the same as GileAd to Me,
For, you are Lebanon's head.
So, should I not wipe you away,
And leave your cities deserted?

⁷ 'I'll bring annihilation upon you,
By a man who carries the axe.

He'll cut down all your fine cedars,
And throw them into a fire.

⁸ 'Then, nations will [march] through this city,
And each man will ask his companion,
Why did [God] let this happen?

⁹ And the other will give this reply:
*Because, they abandoned their Sacred Agreement,
With Jehovah, their God...
They bowed before and served other gods.*

¹⁰ 'So don't weep or feel sorry for those who will die...
Weep for those who are taken to exile,
Because they'll never return,
Or see the land of their fathers again.'

¹¹ The Lord also said these words against ShalLum (JehoiAkim), the king of Judah (the son of [King] JosiAh), who reigned in place of his [brother] that [had been carried] off [to Egypt]. He said:

'You will never return here,
¹² And you'll die where I had you taken;
So this land won't see you again!

¹³ 'For your [palace] was built on injustice,
And unfairly, its rooms were constructed,
Since you made your neighbors work without pay...
No you didn't even pay them their wages!

¹⁴ 'A well-designed house, you've built for yourself,
With windows and good ventilation,
And cedar walls that are painted vermillion.

¹⁵ So, should you [take over] the reign,
Because you're mad at your father?

'Of food and drink, he had plenty,
Because he was fair, honest, and just!

¹⁶ But, you have not [seen the need],
To judge the humble in fairness,
Or to be just with the poor!

Have you done this because you don't know Me,' asks Jehovah?

¹⁷ '{Look!} There is nothing good in your eyes or your heart,
And your desire is just for more wealth.
So you're shedding innocent blood,
And doing such bad things as murder!'

¹⁸ Then Jehovah said this to JehoiAkim, king of Judah:
'Because of all that he's done,
Woe [will come to] this man.
So let no one feel sorry for him,
And no one should wail, *O my brother!*

'Over him, they should never weep,
Or say, *Too bad for you, O my Lord!*

¹⁹ For he'll be buried just like a burro...
He'll be scraped up and tossed from JeruSalem's [walls]!

²⁰ 'Now, go up to Lebanon and shout...
Go to Bashan and call to the ends of the sea,
[And you'll see that] your lovers are beaten!

²¹ 'I've spoken to you of your sins,
And you said that you'd pay Me no heed.
This has been your way since your youth...
You've paid no attention to My voice!

²² 'So your shepherds will just tend the wind,
And your lovers will be taken as captives.
Then, you'll be shamed and disgraced,
Before all of those with whom you've made love.

²³ 'O you who call Lebanon [your home],
And you who nest among cedars;
You'll groan like a [woman] about to give birth,
For pangs of grief are coming to you!

²⁴ 'As I live,' says Jehovah;
'King ConiJah (JehoiAkim's son),
Will become a seal in My right hand,
For, from your place, I'll soon pick you up,
²⁵ And I'll hand you to the one who is seeking your life...
The one before whom you are cautious...
To the hands of King NebuChadNezzar,
And the hands of his Chaldeans.

²⁶ 'I'll throw you and the mother who bore you,
Into a land where you were not born...
Which is the place where you'll die!

²⁷ So, to this land that's the love of your life,
You will never return.

²⁸ 'ConiJah will also meet with disgrace.
And like a pot [that's been thrown] in the garbage,
He'll be thrown in a land that he's never known.'

²⁹ O land, hear the Word of Jehovah...

³⁰ Record him as one who's been banished,
And then proclaim this in public:
'Nothing will grow from his seed,
Which will ever sit upon David's throne,
Or rule in Judah again!'

Chapter 23

- ¹ O you shepherds who scatter,
And destroy the sheep of His pasture;
Against you, Jehovah said this...
He said this to those who shepherd His [sheep]:
- ² 'You have scattered My sheep...
Yes, you have pushed them away,
And refused to [watch over] them.
So, {Look!} I will take vengeance upon you,
For the wicked things that you've done.
- ³ 'Then, from the whole the earth, I'll gather them back
(Those who are left of My people),
From wherever they had been pushed,
And bring them [back] to their pastures,
Where they'll multiply and grow once again.
- ⁴ 'Then I will raise shepherds to tend them,
So they won't know terror or fear,
Nor will they have to be searched for again,' says Jehovah.
- ⁵ '{Look!} The days are coming,' says Jehovah,
'When I'll bring a righteous dawning to David,
And an understanding king will then reign,
Who'll bring what's righteous and fair to the land.
- ⁶ 'In his days, he'll bring salvation to Judah,
And IsraEl will camp in submission.
He'll be called JoSedek (Jehovah is Righteous) by Jehovah.
- ⁷ 'And because of this, {Look!} days will come,' says Jehovah;
They'll not say [in their oaths], *As Jehovah's alive...*
The One who led IsraEl from Egypt.
- ⁸ But rather, they will be saying,
As Jehovah's alive...
The One who gathered IsraEl's seed,
From the lands in the north,
And from everywhere that they had been pushed,
Then He brought them back to their land.'
- ⁹ But their prophets have broken my heart,
And they have rattled my bones.
I became like a person who's broken,
Or as one who's had too much wine,
Before the face of Jehovah...
Before His beautiful, glorious face...
- ¹⁰ For the land is full of adultery.
Because of this, the land is in mourning,

And all of its pastures have dried.
For their race has become wicked and weak,
¹¹ And their prophets and priests are corrupt.

'I saw their wicked ways in My [Temple],' says Jehovah,
¹² 'So I allowed them to slip into darkness,
Where they have stumbled and fallen!
Then, in the year that I visit,
I will bring more bad things upon them,' says Jehovah.

¹³ 'Among Samaria's prophets,
I beheld the violations of [My] Law.
For, it was by BaAl that they prophesied
To mislead IsraEl, My people.

¹⁴ 'Then among the prophets of JeruSalem,
I also saw reasons to shudder.
For they committed adultery and lied,
While shaking hands with the wicked...
Not turning their hands from bad ways.

'So to Me, they are very like Sodom...
And like GomorRah, are all those who live there.
¹⁵ And because of this,' says Jehovah to those prophets;
'{Look!} I will feed them on grief,
And water that's bitter, I'll give them to drink.
For, everywhere throughout the land,
JeruSalem's prophets have brought what is foul.'

¹⁶ Thus says Jehovah the Almighty:
'Don't listen to the words of those prophets...
Those who prophesy before you.
For their visions [prove that] how foolish they are,
And what they speak just comes from their hearts,
Not from the mouth of Jehovah.

¹⁷ 'They tell those who've pushed the Lord's Word aside:
You'll have peace, if you'll follow your hearts...
No evil will come to any of those,
Who follow the delusions in their hearts.'

¹⁸ Who has stood in the fort of the Lord...
Who has beheld and heard what He said...
Who has listened and paid close attention?

¹⁹ {Look!} A shaking will come from Jehovah...
His anger will arrive as a rumble;
Then a whirl-wind will come to the godless.

²⁰ Yet, this won't turn the rage of Jehovah,
Until His heart has been satisfied.
And they won't comprehend 'til the end of their days.

²¹ 'I did not send those false prophets...
And yet, they still came before you.
And though I've never spoken to them,
They have still prophesied.

²² 'If they had followed My council,
And paid attention to what I had said,
My people would have turned from their wicked ways.

²³ 'But, I am a God who is near,' says Jehovah!
'I'm not a God who is far away.

²⁴ So, what can be hidden [from Me]...
What's the secret that I cannot see?
Can't I fill the heavens and earth,' asks Jehovah?

²⁵ 'Yet, I've heard what the prophets have said...
Those who are speaking lies in My Name...
Those who say, *I [saw this] in a dream!*

²⁶ 'How long will their lies still continue,
Within the hearts of those prophets?
How long will they prophesy lies,
And speak from the desires of their hearts?

²⁷ 'They've come up with ways to forget My Name,
Then they use their dreams to describe to their neighbors,
How [it was really] their fathers,
Who've forgotten My Name,
And turned to the service of BaAl.

²⁸ 'Let those dreaming prophets describe all their dreams!
And let those who say that they have My word,
Describe what I've really said!

'As straw is to grain, so are My words,' says Jehovah.

²⁹ 'Aren't My words like the flames of a fire,' asks the Lord?
'Aren't they an axe that cuts rocks?

³⁰ 'Look! I am against all those prophets,
Who steal My words from their neighbors.

³¹ Look! I am against all those prophets,' says Jehovah,
'Who roll prophecies out from their tongues,
While all they really do is just sleep.

³² 'Look, I am against all those prophets,
Who speak prophecies from false dreams they had.
For, they are misleading My people,
With all their lies and delusions!

'I did not really send them,
Nor did I tell them to do this...
I gave them nothing to bring to these people,' says Jehovah.

³³ 'And if you are asked by these men,
Or asked by a prophet or priest,
Over what is Jehovah concerned?
You must give this reply:

*'What bothers Me is you people,
For I'll beat you down, says Jehovah...*

³⁴ *You people, you prophets, and priests...
You who are asking why I am bothered,
And I'll punish such men and their homes!*

³⁵ 'Then, each one will be asking his neighbor,
And each man will be asking his brother:
What is Jehovah's reply?
What answer came from the Lord?

³⁶ But don't ask Jehovah about this again;
For, His replies should be your concern,
³⁷ Since you have twisted God's words.

'So, [the next time that] you ask of the prophets,
What was said by Jehovah, our God...

³⁸ Because you've spoken these words once again;
I'll send Jehovah's concerns upon you.
For I told you that you should not ask,
What's Jehovah concerned with, again!

³⁹ '{Look!} It's because of this, that I'll take you,
And beat you down in this place,
Which I gave to your fathers.

⁴⁰ I'll place scorn on you through the ages...
A dishonor that won't be forgotten.'

Chapter 24

¹ Well, it was after NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon) had taken JeconiJah (the son of JehoiAkim) the king of Judah and the governors from JeruSalem as prisoners and led them into Babylon that the Lord showed me two reed baskets of figs sitting before the Temple of Jehovah. ² The first basket of figs was much fresher and better than the other, for the second basket of figs was so bad that they couldn't be eaten. ³ And the Lord asked me, 'What do you see, JeremiAh?'

And I replied, 'Figs... some are good, but the others are so bad that they can't be eaten.'

⁴ Then the Word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ 'Jehovah, the God of IsraEl, says this:
*These good figs are like those Judeans,
Whom I already sent away from this place,
Into the land of Chaldea.*

⁶ *'I will fix My eyes upon them for good,
And to this land, I'll restore them...*

*I'll rebuild them and I'll not destroy them again...
I'll plant them and not pluck them up.*

*⁷ I'll give them a heart that will know Me,
So they'll know that I am their Lord.
They'll be My people and I'll be their God,
And they'll turn toward Me with their whole hearts.*

*⁸ 'And when it comes to those bad figs,
Which no one can possibly eat...
Because they have been so rotten, says Jehovah;
I'll hand over King ZedekiAh,
Along with all his great men.*

*'Then the rest of the people in JeruSalem,
And those who've remained in this land,
As well as those [who've gone down to] Egypt,
⁹ Will be scattered throughout all the kingdoms of the earth.*

*'They'll be scorned as a parable of hatred,
And cursed in every place where I'll push them.*

*¹⁰ Upon them, I will bring famine,
As well as plagues and the sword,
Until they're forced from this land,
That I gave to their fathers and them.'*

Chapter 25

¹ Well, it was in the fourth year [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah that these words came to JeremiAh concerning all the people of Judah. And then, during the first year [of the reign] of NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon), ² the Prophet JeremiAh went and spoke to all people of Judah and to those who were living in JeruSalem, telling them this:

³ 'From the thirteenth year of JosiAh (the son of Amon) – for [the past] twenty three years – Jehovah's word has been coming to me, and I've been getting up early each morning to tell you [what God has said]. However, you just haven't listened. ⁴ [So now, Jehovah says this]:

*'At dawn, I sent you My servants the Prophets,
But your ears refused to listen to them,
And you chose to pay no attention.*

*⁵ 'They told you to turn from your wicked ways,
And then you'll continue to live in the land,
That I gave to your fathers and you,
Through the age and into the ages.*

*⁶ 'I told you not to follow strange gods...
Not to serve or bow before them,
So you wouldn't provoke Me to rage,
With these works of your hands,*

And then I wouldn't do bad things to you.

⁷ But, you refused to listen to Me.

⁸ 'So because of this,' says Jehovah...

'Since you didn't trust the things that I said;

⁹ {Look!} I'll send for a family that lives in the north,

And lead them down to this land...

I'll bring them against those who live here,

And against all the nations around you,

To make them all desolation...

They'll appoint them for extinction and hissing,

As well as for scorn, through the age.

¹⁰ 'They'll destroy the sounds of happiness and joy,

As well as the voices of grooms and their brides...

The scent of lamps and perfumes.

¹¹ 'There'll be an extinction throughout the whole land,

Then you'll serve these nations for seventy years...

As well as Babylon's king.

¹² 'And after seventy years are fulfilled;

On the king of Babylon and his wicked nation,

I will then take My vengeance

For the unrighteous things that they'll do,' says Jehovah.

'And upon the land of Chaldea;

Through the ages, I've appointed extinction.

¹³ Against that land, I'll bring all the words,

That I have spoken against them...

All the things JeremiAh wrote in this scroll,

And which he has spoken against them!

¹⁴ 'For, they will have forced many nations,

As well as their great kings to serve them.

So I'll pay them back for the bad things they'll do...

According to the works of their hands.'

¹⁵ Then Jehovah the God of IsraEl said:

'Take this cup of pure wine from My hand,

And give it to those nations where I'll send you...

Give it to them as their drink!

¹⁶ Then they'll drink it and they will vomit it out,

And go mad before the sword that I'll send.'

¹⁷ So I took the cup from the hand of the Lord and gave it to the nations to drink (all of those to whom He had sent me... to JeruSalem and the cities of Judah... to the king of Judah and his governors) ¹⁸ so as to appoint desolation upon them and to be lands that are no longer walked (places of hissing and curses), ¹⁹ as well as on PharaOh (the king of Egypt), on his children, on his people, and on all his great men (yes, all who live in his realm), ²⁰ as well as on the kings of Philistia and Uz; on AshKelon, Gaza, EkRon, and

those who are left in AshDod,²¹ and on Edom and MoAb.

'Sons of AmMon will then be extinct,

²² As well as the kings of Sidon and Tyre,
And the kings who [live] 'cross the sea,

²³ Such as Dedan, Tema, and Buz
(All those who are shaving their faces),

²⁴ And the kings of Arabia and their subjects
(Those who rest in the desert);

²⁵ All the kings of Zimri and Elam;
All the kings of the Medes;

²⁶ And all the kings from the east wind
(Both those far away and those who are near),
Along with all of their brothers,
And the rest of the kingdoms across the earth's face...
Pharaoh Shishak will also drink with them!

²⁷ 'Tell them that thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:

*They must drink it and all will get drunk,
And then, they will vomit and fall!
For they'll be unable to stand,
Before the sword that I'm sending to them!*

²⁸ 'And if they refuse to drink from the cup;

Explain that Jehovah of Armies said this:
[You have no choice] but to drink it,

²⁹ *Because, this affliction has started,
In the city that carries My Name.*

*'And if you should try to clean yourselves up,
There's no way that you'll ever be holy;
For now, I have called for a sword,
To come upon the whole earth,
Says Jehovah of Armies.*

³⁰ 'You must speak these words against them and say:

*From high above in His Holy Place,
Jehovah will bring execution...
He'll speak a word with His voice,
And against your place, send destruction.*

'Then those who gather this vintage will say,

To those who have settled the land:

³¹ *Part of the earth has been ruined;
And this judgment of nations has come from Jehovah.
For, with all flesh, He's contending,
And the irreverent will be given to the sword.'*

³² Jehovah of Armies also said this:

'{Look!} From a nation, comes evil to nations,

And a storm will rage to the ends of the earth.

³³ And in that day;
From one part of the earth to the other,
Those who are slain by Jehovah,
Won't be lamented, gathered, or buried...
They'll be like manure on the face of the ground.

³⁴ 'So shout, O shepherds, and cry out!
Beat on your chests, O rams of the flocks!
For your days became full for the slaughter,
And you will fall like the choicest of rams.

³⁵ 'For shepherds; their chance for flight will be gone,
And safety will flee from the rams of the flocks.

³⁶ So, from the shepherds, cries will arise,
As well as the bleating of rams,
When Jehovah wipes out their pastures.

³⁷ 'Peaceful places to rest, there'll no longer be,
In the face of Jehovah's anger and rage.
For He's come like a lion that's abandoned its lair,
To make their land a place that's unwalked,
In the face of His mighty sword.'

Chapter 26

¹ It was in the first part of the reign of King JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) that this word came from Jehovah. [The Lord] said:

² 'Go stand in [My Temple] courtyard,
And give orders to all in Judea...
To those who are coming to bow here.
Give them the orders about which I spoke,
And don't overlook any words!

³ 'Then perhaps they will listen and turn from their bad,
And I can bring an end to the evil,
Which I've arranged to send upon them,
Because of the bad things they're doing.

⁴ 'Now, tell them that thus says Jehovah:
*If you refuse to listen to Me,
And obey all the Laws that I've set before you...*

[If you won't] obey the words of My servant

⁵ – *The words of the Prophet I sent,
But to whom you chose not to listen –*

⁶ *I'll make this [Temple] like Shiloh,
And appoint this city as a curse,
Before all the nations of the earth.'*

⁷ Well, all the priests, all the false prophets, and all the people heard what JeremiAh said

when he spoke those words in the [Temple] of Jehovah. ⁸ And when he finished saying what Jehovah had ordered him to say before all the people, all the priests, and all the false prophets; the people grabbed him and said: ⁹ 'We're going to kill you for prophesying in the Name of the Lord and saying that this [Temple] will become like Shiloh and this city will become desolate with no one living in it!'

So all the people assembled [for a trial] against JeremiAh, there inside the [Temple] of Jehovah. ¹⁰ And when the rulers of Judah heard [what he had said], they too went up from the king's [palace] to the [Temple] of Jehovah, and they sat on the threshold of the New Gate. ¹¹ Then the priests and false prophets said to the rulers and to all of the people: 'This man deserves the judgment of death for prophesying against this city... which you've all heard him do with your own ears!'

¹² And [in reply], JeremiAh said this to all the rulers and the people: 'It was Jehovah who sent me to prophesy all the words that you've heard against this [Temple] and this city. ¹³ So it would really better for you to change your works and your ways, and to start listening to the voice of your God Jehovah. For then the Lord would bring an end to all the evils that He has spoken against you.

¹⁴ 'But now, {Look!} here I am in your hands! Do to me whatever you think is going to be advantageous and best for yourselves! ¹⁵ But know and understand that if you do away with me, you will have brought the guilt of innocent blood against yourselves, this city, and all those who live here; for it was truly Jehovah who sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears!'

¹⁶ Then the rulers and people said to the priests and false prophets: 'This man doesn't deserve a sentence of death, for he was speaking in the Name of Jehovah our God!'

¹⁷ Then men from among the elders of the land stood up and spoke before the whole gathering, and said, ¹⁸ 'MicAh the Morasthite was a Prophet in the days of HezekiAh, the king of Judah, and he spoke to all the people of Judah and told them that Jehovah of Armies had said this:

*'Zion is like a field to be plowed;
JeruSalem will be a storehouse of fruits;
And the Temple Mount will then be converted,
Into a grove of sacred poles.*

¹⁹ 'Yet, King HezekiAh and the people of Judah didn't do way with him, because they were afraid of Jehovah. So they begged and bowed before [Him], and Jehovah brought an end to the evils that He had spoken against them. And once again, we have [for a fact, sinned] in a great way against our own souls!'

²⁰ Well, there was another man who was also prophesying in the Name of Jehovah, UriAh the son of ShemaiAh (from KiriAth JaiRim). And he had also prophesied about the city and the land, using the same words as JeremiAh. ²¹ But when he heard what King JehoiAkim and all the rulers were saying about seeking to kill [JeremiAh], UriAh became afraid and fled down to Egypt. ²² So the king sent his men (ElNathan, the son of AchBor, and some others) to Egypt, ²³ and they brought him back from there and stood him before the king, who struck him with a sword and tossed [his body] into the tomb of the sons of his people. ²⁴ However, the hand of AhiKam (the son of ShaPhan) was with JeremiAh,

and he kept him from being handed over to the people so they could do away with him.

Chapter 27

¹ It was at the beginning of the reign of JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, that this word came to JeremiAh from Jehovah. ² The Lord said:

'Now, make some shackles for yourself,
And a collar [of iron] to be put 'round your neck.
³ Then send them to the kings of Edom and MoAb,
And to those of AmMon, Sidon, and Tyre,
By the hands of those who have come here,
To see ZedekiAh, king of Judah.

⁴ 'Tell them that they must say to their Lords,
That Jehovah of Armies – the God of IsraEl – declared this:

⁵ *'I'm the One who created the earth and its men,
And all cattle on the face of the ground,
By means of My strength and My mighty arm,
And I'll hand it to whomever I choose.*

⁶ *'So now, I have given all of the lands,
To NebuChadNezzar (Babylon's King).
[So all men] must start serving him,
As must all the beasts in the fields,
⁷ As well as their sons and the sons of their sons,
Through the time that's been set for your lands...
Yes, all of this is now his!*

*'Many nations and great kings will start serving him,
⁸ And upon any nation or kingdom,
That won't serve King NebuChadNezzar
– Upon those who won't wear his yoke on their necks –
I'll send the sword, famines, and plagues, says Jehovah,
Until they yield to his hand.*

⁹ *'So don't listen to what your false prophets say
(Those who prophesy through their dreams,
Or those who give omens through potions),
When they tell you not to serve Babylon's king,
¹⁰ Because they're all telling you lies,
And you'll be driven away from your land;
For I'll drive you out and [destroy] you!*

¹¹ *'To the nation that puts its neck in the yoke,
Of the king of Babylon, and serve him;
I'll allow them to stay in their land, says Jehovah...
They'll continue to work here and live.'*

¹² So I went and spoke all these words to ZedekiAh the king of Judah, saying: 'If you'll put your neck in the yoke of Babylon's king ¹³ and work for him and his men, you'll live! Why

should you and your people all choose to die by the sword, famines, and plagues, as Jehovah told the nations would happen to them if they choose not to serve Babylon's king? ¹⁴ You shouldn't listen to the words of the prophets when they tell you that you must not serve him, for they're prophesying unrighteous things! ¹⁵ Jehovah says that He didn't send them, and what they're prophesying in His Name is unrighteous, so He'll have to destroy you... yes, you'll die along with those prophets who are lying to you!

¹⁶ Then I spoke to the priests and to all the people, and told them that Jehovah said this:
'Don't listen to the words of the prophets,
When they speak a prophecy and say,
*{Look!} The items of the [Temple] of Jehovah,
Will soon be returned from Babylon;*
Because, they are lying to you!

¹⁷ Do not listen to them...
Serve Babylon's king and you'll live...
Why bring desolation to your city?'

¹⁸ [I said], 'If they truly are Prophets and if they really have the word of the Lord, then have them all come here and meet with me, so that the things that are left in the Temple and the things that belong to Judah's kings (that are still left in JeruSalem) won't end up being taken to Babylon. ¹⁹ For Jehovah sent me this warning about the pillars, the [Sacred] Sea and its base, and all the rest of the things that remain here, ²⁰ which the king of Babylon didn't take when he removed Jeconiah (Jehoiakim's son) the king of Judah and all of his rulers and carried them from Judah and JeruSalem back to Babylon.

²¹ 'For, Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl) said this about the things that have been left behind in the [Temple] of Jehovah, and in the homes of the kings in Judah and in JeruSalem:

²² *To Babylon, they will be taken,
And that is where they will stay,
Until the day that I come to visit,
And lead them back to this place.'*

Chapter 28

¹ It was in the fifth month of the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah (king of Judah) that Hananiah (the son of Azur), the false prophet from Gibeon, spoke to me in the [Temple] of Jehovah before the eyes of the priests and all the people. He said, ² 'Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, spoke to me and said this: *I will break the yoke of Babylon's king. ³ And in just two more years I'll return all things of the [Temple] of Jehovah to this place, ⁴ as well as Jeconiah and the [people] of Judah who had been relocated. For I'm going to break the yoke of Babylon's king.'*

⁵ Then the Prophet Jeremiah replied to Hananiah, there before the priests and before the eyes of all the people who were standing in the [Temple] of Jehovah, saying: ⁶ 'May Jehovah indeed do what you've said in the words of your prophecy and return the things of the [Temple] of Jehovah along with all those who were carried off to Babylon. ⁷ However, listen to the words that I will be speaking into your ears before all these people:

⁸ 'Through the ages, there have been many people who've prophesied great things against

this land (long before you and me), concerning war, oppression, and plagues...⁹ and there were those who also prophesied peace. Then after it happened, the [people] started believing in whichever prophet that had really been sent by Jehovah.'

¹⁰ Well, HananiAh then tore the yoke from the neck of JeremiAh and broke it. ¹¹ And he said (there before the eyes of all the people): 'The Lord told me that this is how He will break the yoke of the king of Babylon from the necks of all the nations in just **two more years!**'

So, JeremiAh left. And as he was going on his way ¹² (after HananiAh had broken the yoke from his neck), the Word of Jehovah came to him saying, ¹³ 'Return and tell HananiAh that the Lord said this:

*Because you've broken this wooden yoke,
I'll now turn the wooden yokes into iron.*

¹⁴ Then Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, told me this:
'I'll put an iron yoke on the necks of all nations,
So they'll serve and work for Babylon's king...
And to him, I'll give all their cattle.'

¹⁵ Then JeremiAh said this to HananiAh: 'Listen O HananiAh; Jehovah hasn't sent you to these people just so they can learn to rely on the things that they've been doing wrong. ¹⁶ And because of what you've done, the Lord told me this:

*'{Look!} I'll remove you from the face of the earth...
Yes, this very year, you will die,
For speaking against Jehovah!'*

¹⁷ Well, he did die in the seventh month.

Chapter 29

¹ **These are the words of the scroll that JeremiAh the Prophet sent from JeruSalem to the elders who had already been relocated, as well as to the priests and false prophets... to all the people that NebuChadNezzar had moved from JeruSalem to Babylon** ² **after King JeconiJah, his queen, his eunuchs, and all the free men, servants, and craftsman had been taken from JeruSalem.** ³ [He sent it] by the hand of ElAsah (the son of ShaPhan) and GemariJah (the son of HilkiJah). For they were the ones whom ZedekiAh (the king of Judah) sent to the king of [the empire of] Babylon who lived in [the city of] Babylon.

[The scroll] said, ⁴ 'Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, says this to those who were carried away (those whom He moved from JeruSalem to Babylon):

⁵ *Build houses and get ready to live there...*

Plant gardens and then eat their fruits...

⁶ *Take wives and also have children...*

Father both daughters and sons!

'Take [mates] for your sons and your daughters,

For, they will give birth to daughters and sons...

They'll multiply and not be reduced!

⁷ *'Seek peace in the land where I've sent you,
And pray to Jehovah on its behalf;
For, in its peace, you'll find peace!*

⁸ *'Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, also says this:*

*'Don't believe the false prophets among you...
Do not be influenced by those,
Who say that you will find comfort...
And pay no attention to the things they have dreamed!*

⁹ *'For, there will be those who will come in My Name,
And they will prophesy falsely;
However, I didn't send them, says Jehovah!*

¹⁰ *'Then, this is what the Lord told me:
After the seventy years,
Upon Babylon have been fulfilled,
I'll come to visit and do as I said...
I'll bring your people back to this place.*

¹¹ *'I'll work out a way that's peaceful, not bad,
In order to give you these things.*

¹² *Then, you can pray and I'll hear you...*

¹³ *You can search for Me and you'll find Me.*

'And when you search for Me with your whole hearts;

¹⁴ *To you, I will then appear!*

¹⁵ *For you've been told that the Lord has put Prophets,
Among those who are living in Babylon.*

¹⁶ *'Then [the Lord also spoke to me about] the king who is sitting on the throne of David
and about all the people who are living in this city... about all your brothers who didn't
leave and weren't taken into captivity along with you. ¹⁷ [He told me that] Jehovah of
Armies said this:*

{'Look!} I'll send them the sword, famines, and plagues...

Like a bad fig, I will make them...

[A fig] that's too rotten to eat.

¹⁸ *'I'll pursue them with swords, famines, and plagues,
Then scatter them to all the kingdoms of earth.
To confusion, hissing, and scorn they'll be cursed,
Among all the nations where I'll send them.*

¹⁹ *'For they've paid no attention to My words, says Jehovah,
That I spoke to them through My servants, the Prophets...
Those whom I sent and rose early [each day],
But to whom, they chose not to listen, says Jehovah.*

²⁰ *'Yet, those of you who've been moved away
(Those whom I sent from JeruSalem to Babylon),
Have also ignored the words of the Lord.'*

²¹ 'The Lord also spoke against Ahab (the son of KolaiJah) and ZedekiAh (the son of MaAseJah), who were prophesying lies to you in His Name. He said this:

*'{Look!} To Babylon's king, I will hand them,
And he'll cut them down in front of your eyes.*

²² *So when Babylon's Jews speak curses, they'll say:
May Jehovah do the same thing to you,
As He did to ZedekiAh and Ahab...
Those whom Babylon's king fried over fires.*

²³ *'For, the people in JeruSalem are lawless...
They're committing adultery with their countrymen's wives.
Yet [their prophets] are saying things in My Name,
Which I didn't tell them to say...
And I am the witness [against them],'* says Jehovah!

²⁴ Then [the Lord instructed me] to say this to ShemaiAh the NeHelamite:
'Though you weren't sent in My Name;
You wrote a letter to the Priest, ZephaniAh,
Saying that, thus says Jehovah:

²⁵ *'I'm the One who appointed you as the Priest,
To take the place of JehoiAda,
And to be in charge of [My Temple],
As well as over the prophets.*

²⁶ *'And now, I tell you to put every man,
Who acts [like a prophet], in prison...
Yes, in the [lowest of] dungeons.*

²⁷ 'So, why have you joined in and scolded,
JeremiAh from [the city of] AnathOth,
Who has served as a prophet to you?

²⁸ 'Through him, I told those in Babylon,
And the rest in its most-distant places,
That freedom is still far away.
So, they should build houses and dwell there...
Plant gardens and then eat their fruit.'

²⁹ Well, after the Prophet JeremiAh read this letter in the ears of ZephaniAh, ³⁰ the Word of the Lord came to him again, saying: ³¹ 'Send [a message] to those who've been sent away and tell them that Jehovah has brought condemnation upon ShemaiAh the NeHeLamite. He said:

*Since ShemaiAh has prophesied before you,
Despite the fact that I didn't send him,
And he urged you to trust in the bad things you're doing...*

³² *Because of this, says Jehovah;
I'll visit ShemaiAh and all of his kind,
And there won't be a man left among them,
Who'll see the good things I'll do among you,* says Jehovah;

For he's preached a turning from Me.'

Chapter 30

¹ These words came to JeremiAh from the Lord. He was told that Jehovah the God of IsraEl says this:

² 'In a scroll, you must write all these words,
That I have spoken to you!

³ For {Look!} the days are coming,' says Jehovah,
'When I'll return the people of IsraEl and Judah
(All those who've been relocated),' said Jehovah...

'Yes I'll bring them back to this land,
Which I gave to their fathers,
And they will then be its lords.'

⁴ And after that, these were the words that the Lord spoke to IsraEl and Judah:

⁵ 'Jehovah says:

Fearful sounds, you will hear...

You'll hear fearful sounds and there will be no peace.

⁶ 'Ask if a male has ever given birth.

Yet I see all men with their hands on their hips,

As though they are women about to give birth,

And their faces are [yellow with] jaundice.

⁷ 'For, that will be a great day of woe,

And no other will be as severe...

It's from this, that Jacob will be returned.

⁸ 'For thus says Jehovah of Armies:

In that day, I'll break all the yokes from their necks;

I'll also tear apart all their bonds,

And they'll no longer be toiling for strangers.

⁹ 'Then they'll work for Jehovah, their God,

And I will raise David to be their king.

¹⁰ 'But you, O My servant, Jacob;

Don't be afraid, says Jehovah!

O IsraEl, do not feel terror;

For {Look!} I'll bring you back from those far-away lands.

I'll bring your seed from that captive place;

Jacob will be returned and find rest;

He'll receive an abundance of good things,

And he will have nothing to fear.

¹¹ 'Because I'm with you, I'll save you, says Jehovah.

And I will appoint a conclusion,

To those nations where you have been scattered.

'No way have I appointed your end.

*But I will correct you in fairness,
And scrub you until you are clean!*

¹² 'Jehovah said:

I'll remove the pain of destruction,

¹³ *For no one else will be judging your case,
And no one else will be treating your [wounds],
To bring consolation to you.*

¹⁴ *'By your friends, you have been forgotten,
And no one has asked why I struck you...
Why I let your enemies beat you.*

*'My discipline has been substantial,
Because the things that you did were so bad!*

¹⁵ *So don't yell [to Me] about your destruction,
And the incurable state of your misery!*

*'It happened because your sins were so great,
And because of the harsh things you've done...
It's why I brought all these bad things upon you.*

¹⁶ *'But then, those who [are now] eating you,
Will find themselves being consumed,
And your enemies will be taken as captives...
Those scattering you, will be scattered,
And those looting you, will be plundered.*

¹⁷ *'Then your grievous wounds, I will cure...
Yes, I will then treat all your ailments, says God.
Then Zion will be called The Replanted Place,
And none will [attack] her again.*

¹⁸ 'Jehovah said:

*{Look!} I'll return those of Jacob who've been taken away...
All who were led off as captives.*

*Then I will show mercy upon them,
And rebuild their city here in the heights,
Where all the people will be seated,
According to the fairness of their actions.*

¹⁹ *'And from among them, there will come singers,
As well as sounds brought by musicians,
Who will grow in super abundance,
And no way will they then be diminished.*

²⁰ *'Each man will enter along with his sons,
Just as they did in the past,
And their praises will rise up to Me,
When I come against those who oppressed them.*

²¹ *'From among them, I'll then choose a leader...*

*Yes their ruler will be one of them.
Then I'll collect them and bring them to Me
(All those who choose in their hearts to return), says Jehovah....
22 They'll be My people and I'll be their Lord.*

23 'This is why the rage of Jehovah was sent:
To change the godless, His anger went out...
To make them turn back to Him.

24 'But there's no way to turn back [God's] anger and rage,
Until He has taken some action...
Until He does what His heart has concluded...
And in the last days, you will understand.'

Chapter 31

1 Then the Lord told me this:
'They'll be the race of IsraEl's God...
Yes, they'll be His people once more.'

2 And the Lord said:
'Though they found it hot in the desert,
When they were destroyed by the sword;
IsraEl will again find places to rest!

3 'For, in the distance, they will see Jehovah,
And this is what He will say:
*With a love of the ages, I've loved you,
So I've drawn you close to show pity on you...
4 I will rebuild you and you'll be rebuilt,
O virgin daughter of IsraEl.*

*'You'll lift your tambourines once again,
And play them before the whole gathering.
5 And once more, you will plant vineyards,
Upon Samaria's mountains...
Yes, you will go planting and plant,
And you will go praising and praise!*

6 'Then, on the day that I call you,
On Ephraim's mountains, the watchmen will cry:
Get up and go to Mount Zion...
Yes, go to Jehovah, your God!'

7 'Then Jehovah said this to [the people of] Jacob:
*Be glad and shout to those leading the nations...
Do it... shout loudly in praise!*
Say, Jehovah has rescued His people...
The remaining ones of IsraEl!

8 'Look... from the north, I will lead them,
And gather them from the ends of the earth,

*To observe a [glorious] Passover...
They'll return and they'll have many children!*

*° 'When they left, they did so in tears;
But I'll comfort them and lead them to rest,
Along straight roads with [pure] streams.*

*'Then, from [that path], they'll not stray,
For I'll be IsraEl's Father again,
And [a Father] to Ephraim, My firstborn.*

*¹⁰ 'O nations; hear the word of Jehovah,
And announce it to far-away islands.
Say, *The One who blew away IsraEl's chaff,*
Will gather them back once again,
*And guard them like a flock that is grazing.**

*¹¹ 'For Jehovah has [paid the] ransom for Jacob,
And from mighty hands, He has saved them.*

¹² So in joy, they'll come back to Zion.

*'Then, there in a land filled with grain,
They will find good things from God...
Wine, as well as much olive oil,
Along with fruit, cattle, and sheep.
So their lives will become like trees filled with fruit,
And they will be hungry no more.*

*¹³ 'Then the virgins will do much rejoicing,
And men young and old will be shouting in joy.
For their mourning will be turned into cries of glee...
He'll comfort them and they'll be happy.*

*¹⁴ 'I'll magnify the lives of the Priests,
And [the lives of] the sons of Levi,
So My people will then own many good things!*

Jehovah said:

*¹⁵ 'A voice was heard crying from RamAh...
The sounds of weeping, wailing, and grief.
It was the voice of RachEl, crying for her sons,
And she refused to accept any comfort,
Because they're no longer [living].*

¹⁶ Then Jehovah said:

*'Stop crying and dry the tears from your eyes,
Because, there's a wage for your work.
They'll be returned from their enemies' lands,*

*¹⁷ And there's still hope for those who've survived,' says Jehovah;
'For your sons will return to their borders.'*

¹⁸ 'I heard Ephraim grieving;

So I listened and he told Me this:
You beat me and I was corrected;
For I'd acted like a [wild] calf.
But You turned me around and I have returned;
For, You are Jehovah, my God!

¹⁹ *'Captivity brought a change to my mind;*
For this was the day of [my] shame,
And after I moaned, I then understood.
Plainly, I showed You that I had accepted,
The scorn [I deserved] from my youth.

²⁰ 'Ephraim is My dearly loved son...
A child in whom I find joy.
And because My words are within him,
I will never forget him.

'It was because of this, that I hurried;
For, when it comes to showing him mercy,
I will show mercy upon him,' said Jehovah.

²¹ 'So erect the road signs and guideposts,
And give your hearts to your shoulders,
For they are [going back home]!
Come back, O IsraEl, the virgin!
Return to your cities in mourning!

²² 'O My daughter;
When will you return from those places,
Where you are being disgraced?
For Jehovah has made new places for you,
Where it will be safe to do planting,
And where people can travel in safety.'

²³ Jehovah of Armies (IsraEl's God) then told me this:
'Once more, you'll be speaking of Me,
In the land of Judah and in all your towns,
When I bring back those who were carried away.'

So, praise Jehovah on His Holy Mount!

²⁴ For, those who live in the cities of Judah,
And the farmers [who dwell] in His land,
Will grow once more, along with their flocks!

²⁵ 'To the thirsty souls, I'll send something to drink,
And the hungry souls, I will fill.

²⁶ Then, when you awaken [from sleep],
You'll see that your rest has been peaceful.

²⁷ '{Look!}' The days are coming,' says Jehovah,
'When I'll sow both IsraEl and Judah,
With the seed of men and the seed of wild beasts.

²⁸ 'It'll be as when I watched over them,
(Not when I brought bad and destruction).
And over them, I will be watchful...
They'll be rebuilt and replanted,' said Jehovah.

²⁹ 'In those days, no way will they say,
*Though it was the fathers who ate unripe grapes,
The teeth of their children felt chills.*

³⁰ Then, only the sinners will die
For the bad things they've done,
And those eating green grapes will feel their own chills.

³¹ 'Look... the days are coming,' says Jehovah,
'When I'll make an arrangement with IsraEl's house,
As well as with the houses of Judah.

I'll conclude a New Sacred Agreement,
³² That's unlike the one that I made with their fathers,
In the day I took hold of their hands,
To lead them from Egypt's land.
For they failed to keep My Sacred Agreement;
So, I let them go,' says Jehovah.

³³ 'This is my Sacred Agreement,
Which I'll make with IsraEl then,' said Jehovah:
'I will put My Laws in their minds,
And in their hearts, I will write them.
Then, they'll be My people and I'll be their God.

³⁴ 'There's no way they'll then teach their neighbors and brothers,
And tell them to learn of Jehovah!
For, all will know Me, from their small to their great,
Then I'll be kind to their sins and their errors...
No more, will such things be remembered!

³⁵ For, thus says Jehovah,
Who appointed the sun to light the day,
And the moon and the stars to light up the nights...
The One who brought the roar of the seas,
As well as the sounds of their waves...
Jehovah, the Almighty, is His Name:

³⁶ 'If these Laws before Me should come to an end,
Then the race of IsraEl will no longer stand,
As a nation before Me,
Throughout the rest of their days.'

³⁷ Jehovah says:
'If the skies can be raised much higher,
And the floor of the ground can be lowered,
I can reject the race of IsraEl,' says Jehovah,

'For all the [bad] things they've done.

³⁸ '{Look!}' The days are coming,' said the Lord,
'When a city will be built to Jehovah.
[It will run] from HananEl Tower,
Up to the gate at the corner.

³⁹ To the hills of Gareb, I'll measure it out
And surround it with most precious stones.

'From the Valley of Phagarim and its ashes,
And from AsaRemOth to the Wadi of Cedars,
Then, east to the corner of the Horse Gate,
It'll be a Holy Place to Jehovah,
And its roots won't be pulled up again...
It won't be destroyed through the ages.'

Chapter 32

¹ These words came from Jehovah to JeremiAh in the tenth year [of the reign] of ZedekiAh, the king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of [the reign of] of NebuChadNezzar, the king of Babylon. ² At the time, the army of the king of Babylon had built a siege wall around JeruSalem, and JeremiAh [was under arrest and being kept in] the courtyard of the guard, which was located inside the [palace] of the kings of Judah, ³ since King ZedekiAh had him thrown in jail.

[For, the king had asked him], 'Why did you prophesy and tell us that Jehovah said, *{Look!} I will hand this city over to the king of Babylon and he will take it...* ⁴ and that, *ZedekiAh won't escape from the hands of the Chaldeans, but he will be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon, where he will speak to him mouth to mouth and eye to eye...* ⁵ and that, *ZedekiAh will go into Babylon and stay there until I look favorably upon him. So if you wage war against the Chaldeans, you won't succeed?'*

⁶ Then the Word of the Lord came to JeremiAh, telling him this: ⁷ '{Look!}' Your paternal uncle HanamEl (the son of ShalLum) will come to you and ask you to buy his field in AnathOth... and it will be advantageous for you to acquire it!'

⁸ Well thereafter, my paternal uncle HanamEl (the son of ShalLum) did what the Lord said he would do. It was there in the courtyard of the guard that he said to me, 'Buy my field, the one in AnathOth of the land of BenJamin, because you are the eldest and it would be advantageous for you to acquire it!'

Well, I knew that this was the word of Jehovah, ⁹ so I bought the field in AnathOth from HanamEl (my paternal uncle), paying him seven large silver coins for it. ¹⁰ Then I recorded [the transaction] in a scroll, put a seal on it before witnesses, and weighed out the silver in a balance scale. ¹¹ Thereafter, I took the scroll that had been testified to and sealed, and gave it to BarUch (the son of NeriAh, the son of MaAseJah) before the eyes of HanamEl (my uncle), ¹² those who had served as witnesses of the deed scroll, and before the eyes of all the Judeans who were sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

¹³ Then before them all, I gave orders to BarUch, saying, ¹⁴ 'Jehovah, the Almighty God of IsraEl, says that you should take this scroll that has been sealed and which is proof of my

ownership, then read it and put it into an earthenware jar, so it will last for many more days. ¹⁵ Because, Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, told me this:

*Fields, houses, and vineyards,
Will again be restored in this land.'*

¹⁶ Then, after I gave the deed scroll to BarUch (the son of NeriAh), I prayed to Jehovah, saying: ¹⁷ 'O Great Being; O Lord God; You who made the lands and the skies with Your mighty arm held high above You, and from whom nothing at all can be hidden; ¹⁸ O You who show mercy to thousands and who brings the sins of the fathers upon the chests of their children; the great and Almighty God; Jehovah of Armies is Your Name:

¹⁹ '[You are the God] of great counsel,
And mighty are all of Your works.
Your eyes see the things the sons of men do,
And You pay each one back for his deeds,
According to the fruits of the things he has done.

²⁰ 'You're the One who brought the miracles and signs,
To IsraEl, when they were in Egypt,
And which have happened down to to this day.
For, You have made Your Name known
To all who've been born on the earth to this time.

²¹ 'You're the One who led IsraEl from Egypt,
With signs and miracles from Your mighty hand...
With Your arm held high and through visions.

²² 'And thereafter, You gave them this land,
About which You swore an oath to their fathers...
A land that's flowing with honey and milk.

²³ 'Then they entered this land and they claimed it...
But they refused to listen to Your orders or voice...
They wouldn't do what You told them to do,
So You brought all these bad things upon them.

²⁴ 'Look! A great army has come to this city,
Which they have made plans to conquer.
And to the hands of Chaldeans, it's been given...
Yes, to those who are warring against it,
Bringing the sword, famine, and plagues...
Look! All that You said, has now happened!'

²⁵ 'Now, You've told me to bring along silver,
And before witnesses, purchase a field...
Despite the fact that this city's been given,
Into the hands of Chaldeans!'

²⁶ Then the Word of Jehovah came to me saying:

²⁷ 'Since, I am Jehovah, the God of all flesh;
[Did you think] that such things could be hidden from Me?'

²⁸ Then Jehovah said:

'I have allowed this city to be given,
Into the hands of the Chaldeans,
And into the hands of Babylon's king...
So, he will [very soon] take it!

²⁹ 'The Chaldeans will come and [capture] this city,
Then, they will burn it with fire,
Consuming the houses where people burned incense,
Upon all their roofs, before BaAl,
And where they offer [food] to their gods,
In order to make Me feel bitter.

³⁰ 'Only the sons of IsraEl and Judah,
Would practice such bad in front of My eyes.
For, since their youth, they've offered such things,
Before [gods] that they made with their hands,
So as to make Me feel bitter,' says Jehovah.

³¹ 'So, My anger and rage has been on this place,
From the day it was built until now,
To remove it from in front of My face,

³² Because of all the very bad ways,
Of the sons of IsraEl and Judah.

'They've done all these things to make Me feel bitter...
Their kings, their rulers, their prophets, and priests...
The men of Judah and JeruSalem.

³³ 'They've turned their backs, not their faces, to Me.
So at dawn, I [sent someone] to teach them,
But, they wouldn't listen or learn.

³⁴ 'Then, in their unclean condition,
They put disgusting things in the Temple,
Which is called by My Name.

³⁵ 'There, they built shrines to BaAl;
And they also offered their sons and their daughters
To Molech, in the Valley of Hinnom...
Something that I never told them to do...
Such disgusting things never entered My heart
To make Judah sin [in this way].'

³⁶ Then Jehovah the God of IsraEl made a pronouncement against the city, for He told me to say this:

'Through famine, sword, and the plague,
I've handed this city to Babylon's king.

³⁷ But {Look!} I'll also gather them back from those lands,
Where I'll scatter them in My rage...
From all that I'll do in My fury!

'I'll bring them back to this place,
And in safety, resettle them here;
³⁸ Then they'll be My people and I'll be their God.

³⁹ 'I'll give them new ways and new hearts,
So that they will learn how to fear Me
For the rest of their days and for their own good,
As well as for the good of their children.

⁴⁰ 'A [New] Sacred Agreement of the ages,
I will then make with them...
One that I won't take away.
I'll put the fear of Me in their hearts,
So they'll never turn from Me again.

⁴¹ 'Then I'll visit them to do good things;
And with My whole heart and soul,
I'll plant them securely here in this land.'

⁴² Then Jehovah said:
'And as I brought bad things to these people,
I'll also bring the good things I promised.

⁴³ They will buy fields in this land,
That you say won't be walked by man or by beast,
For it's been handed to the Chaldeans.

'With silver, they will buy fields once again,
Which you'll record and seal in a scroll,
And to which, witnesses will then testify.

⁴⁴ 'In the land of BenJamin [it'll happen],
As well as in JeruSalem,
And in all the cities of Judah.

'[It will happen] in all cities in the mountains,
And in the Shephela and Negev.
For from where they were taken, I'll bring them back,' says Jehovah.

Chapter 33

¹ Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh a second time while he was still bound in the courtyard of the guard. ² He said,
'The Lord who shaped and created the land,
Whose Name is Jehovah, says this:

³ *'Cry out to Me and I will reply...
I'll report of things mighty and great,
About which, you haven't known!'*

⁴ Then Jehovah the God of IsraEl told of how the houses of the city [of JeruSalem] and the [palace] of the king of Judah would be demolished for use as siege mounds and fortifications ⁵ in their fight against the Chaldeans, and of how they were to become filled with the [bodies] of those whom [He will] strike down in His anger and rage when He

turns His face from the city because of all its wickedness.

⁶ [He said]:

'{Look!} Then I'll bring a cure and a closing of wounds...
I'll treat them, and I will make sure,
They'll all hear and then come to know,
That I'm bringing them peace they can trust.

⁷ I'll return those of IsraEl and Judah,
Who were [carried away] and resettled,
And I will rebuild them as they once were.

⁸ I will cleanse them of all their errors,
With which they have sinned against Me.
And no way will I remember their sins,
Or the many ways that they've left Me.

⁹ 'Then before all the peoples throughout the earth,
I'll give them a joyful, praised name.
The [nations] will all hear of the good things I'll do,
And they will be humbled and fearful,
Because of the good and the peace,
Which I will be bringing upon them.'

¹⁰ Then the Lord said:

'And in this place that you'll call desolation,
You'll hear [the sounds of] both men and beasts,
Once more in the cities of Judah.

'And then, outside of JeruSalem
(In those desolate places,
Where the sounds of men and beasts are not heard),

¹¹ There'll be the voices of gladness and joy,
The sounds of grooms and their brides,
And the sounds of men who are saying,
Praise the Almighty God;
For Jehovah really does care,
And through the ages, He will show mercy!

'Then they'll carry gifts to the House of Jehovah;
And those taken from the land, I'll return,' said the Lord.

¹² 'And Jehovah of Armies said:

But this place must become desolation,
And its cities will be void of cattle and men...
It'll be a place of lodging for shepherds,
And a place for them to bed down their flocks.

¹³ *'In all the cities in the mountains,*
And in the cities of the Shephela and Negev,
And throughout BenJamin's land...
All the places outside of JeruSalem,

*And in all the cities of Judah;
There will be those who'll count sheep, said Jehovah.*

¹⁴ *'{Look!} The days are coming, says Jehovah,
When I'll [fulfill] all the good words I spoke,
About the houses of IsraEl and Judah.*

¹⁵ *'Yes, in those days and at that time;
From David, a shoot that is righteous will sprout,
And a king will reign who'll bring understanding,
As well as what's righteous and fair to this land.*

¹⁶ *'In those days, upon Judah, salvation will come,
And JeruSalem will be lived in securely.
Then they'll call [Me], Jehovah, Our Justice.'*

¹⁷ *'And Jehovah said:
There'll always be a man of David's [line],
Sitting upon IsraEl's throne.*

¹⁸ *'And from among the Levites and Priests,
There will always be a man who will stand,
To bring burnt offerings before Me,
As well as sacrifices, incense and gifts
Throughout the rest of the days.'*

¹⁹ Then the Word of the Lord came to JeremiAh saying, ²⁰ 'Jehovah said this:
*If you could annul My Sacred Agreement
– My Agreement with the day and the night –
So there'd be no day and night in that time;
²¹ Then, there would be no more need,
For [David's] sons to reign from his throne,
Nor for Levites and Priests to serve before Me.*

²² *'For the seed of My firebrand, David,
Will become too many to be counted
– Like the armies of the heavens and the sands of the seas –
And the same will be true for the seed of the Levites,
Who will be serving before Me.'*

²³ Then the Word of the Lord came to JeremiAh saying:

²⁴ *'Don't you hear what those people are talking about?
They're saying that the Lord chose two families,
And then, He pushed them both out...
That [I am oppressing] My people,
And they'll not stand as a nation before Me.'*

²⁵ And thereafter, Jehovah said:
*'If My Agreement with the day and the night had not been,
And if I hadn't sent all the Laws
[To govern] the lands and the skies;*

²⁶ *Jacob's seed would not have been chosen,*

Nor would the seed of My servant David,
So to Me, they could never return...
This seed of rulers [that came] from the seed,
Of AbrahAm, IsaAc, and Jacob.

'Yet I'll return them from their captive condition,
And upon them, I will show mercy.'

Chapter 34

¹ These words came to JeremiAh from Jehovah concerning NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon, the entire camp of his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth that are under the domination of his hand... all those people who are waging war against JeruSalem and the cities of Judah. ² The Lord God of IsraEl told me to go to ZedekiAh the king of Judah and tell him that thus says Jehovah:

'When it comes to handing things over;
I'll hand this city to Babylon's king...
He'll capture it and burn it with fire.

³ 'No way will you be saved from his hands;
For he'll capture you and snatch you away;
He'll look at you eye to eye,
And speak to you mouth to mouth...
And to Babylon, he will then take you.'

⁴ Listen to what Jehovah has said, O ZedekiAh king of Judah, for this is what He [told me] to say:

'You will not die by the broadsword;
⁵ And when you die, they'll burn incense,
Like they did for your fathers before you.
As they burn it, they'll be crying, *O Lord!*
While they are mourning for you.'
Yes, this is what was said by Jehovah.

⁶ So JeremiAh then went and said all these things to King ZedekiAh there in JeruSalem. ⁷ And thereafter, the armies of the king of Babylon attacked JeruSalem and all the remaining cities of Judah (because the fortified cities of LachIsh and AzekAh in Judea still hadn't [been conquered]).

⁸ And once again, the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh after King ZedekiAh [had issued a decree] to the people in JeruSalem concerning [God's] Sacred Agreement, in which he called for everyone to set ⁹ all their male and female slaves and their Hebrew male and female servants free, so that there would be no more slaves in Judah. ¹⁰ And all the great men as well as all the rest of the people actually agreed to release their male and female slaves, so they wouldn't have to serve them anymore... yes, they actually paid attention and set them all free! ¹¹ But right after they did that, they went and took back their male and female slaves (whom they had just set free) and put them to work as their slaves once again!

¹² So the Lord said to JeremiAh:

'In the day that I saved your fathers from Egypt,
And from the houses in which they were slaves,
¹³ I made a Sacred Agreement with them,
¹⁴ In which I said that on every sixth year,
They must release all their brothers
(Those who'd sold themselves as their slaves)...
That they may only toil for six years,
And then, they must all be set free!

'But, they haven't listened to Me,
Or turned their ears so they'd hear what I said!

¹⁵ 'Yet today, they decided to do the right thing,
When you told them to set free their neighbors;
And before Me, they said they would do this,
There in the [Temple] that's called by My Name.

¹⁶ 'Then they turned and broke their agreement with Me,
By reclaiming [all of] their slaves...
Those whose lives they had just set free...
They turned back and made them slaves once again!

¹⁷ 'It's because of this,' says Jehovah...
'Because they refused to listen to Me,
And set free their brothers and neighbors;
{Look!} I'll call the release on their behalf...
By the sword, famine, and plague!
And then, I will scatter these people,
Throughout all the kingdoms of the earth.

¹⁸ 'As to those who voided My Sacred Agreement,
By not keeping the promise that they made before Me,
With a calf that they cut in two pieces;

¹⁹ I will come through the midst of those halves...
To the rulers of Judah and JeruSalem
(To the mighty, as well as the priests,
And to all the people who live in that land);

²⁰ Then, to their enemies, I'll hand them...
I'll hand them to those who are seeking their lives!

'Then their rotting flesh will serve as the food,
For all the birds in the skies,
And for all the wild beasts on the ground.

²¹ 'And I'll hand over Judah's King ZedekiAh,
As well as all of his princes,
To their enemies who are seeking their lives...
To the armies of Babylon's king...
To those before whom they are fleeing!

²² 'Look! I'm the One who has issued the order,' says Jehovah!

'To bring them into this city,
Where they'll battle against her and take her,
And then, they will burn her with fire!
I'll make all the cities of Judah,
Places where no one will walk.'

Chapter 35

¹ It was during the time of JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah that the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh saying:

² 'Call for the families of the Rechabites,
Then, bring them to the House of Jehovah
And into one of the courtyards,
Where you must offer them wine.'

³ So he led JaAzaniAh (the son of JeremiAh and grandson of HabaZiniAh), his brothers, sons, and the rest of the families of the Rechabites into the [Temple] of Jehovah ⁴ and [seated them] in the dining room of the sons of Hanan (the son of IgDaliAh, a man of God), which was located next to the house of the [Temple] overseers and above the house of MaAseJah (the son of ShallLum), the person who guarded the entryways. ⁵ Then I set a clay pitcher of wine before them and some cups, and I told them to drink some wine.

⁶ But they said: 'There's no way that we will drink any wine, because our ancestor JoNadab (the son of Rechab) told us: *You must never drink wine – you and your sons – through the ages!* ⁷ *And you must not build houses, plant seeds, or ever own a vineyard. You must dwell in tents for as long as you live in this land!*

⁸ 'So, we've obeyed the instructions of JoNadab (the son of Rechab) our ancestor, and we haven't done anything that he told us not to do. We haven't drunk any wine throughout our lives – not us, our wives, our sons, or our daughters – ⁹ nor have we built houses, owned vineyards, or planted seeds in fields... none of this has ever happened among us. ¹⁰ We've done everything that our ancestor JoNadab told us to do, and we've been living in tents. ¹¹ Then, when NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon came to this land, we told him: *We will leave [our position] in front of the Chaldeans and the armies of the Assyrians and go up to JeruSalem.* So, we've been living here ever since.'

¹² And after that, the Word of the Lord came to me and told me that ¹³ Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, said this:

'Go and speak to the men of Judea,
And to those who are living in JeruSalem;
Then, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

'There's no way that you've heard the things that I've said;

¹⁴ *Yet, the sons of JoNadab (son of Rechab)*

Have obeyed the instructions he gave to his sons,

Not to drink any wine...

And they've drunk no wine to this day!

They've paid attention to their father's commands;

But, when I spoke plainly, you didn't hear!

¹⁵ *'So each morning, I sent you My servants, the Prophets...
I sent them and told them to teach every man,
To turn from his evil ways...
To be better and not follow or serve other gods,
So you could continue to live in the land
That I gave to your fathers and you.
But you have learned nothing at all...
Your ears have paid no attention!*

¹⁶ *'Yet, the sons of JoNadab (the son of Rechab),
Have obeyed the commands of their father...
They've not done the things he said [not to do],
While you haven't listened to Me!*

¹⁷ *'So because of this, says IsraEl's God, Jehovah of Armies;
{Look!} I will bring upon Judah,
And on those who live in JeruSalem,
All the bad things I've spoken against them.
For, when I spoke, they paid no attention...
When I called to them, they didn't reply.'*

¹⁸ Then JeremiAh said to the house of the Rechabites,
'This is what Jehovah has said:
*Since the descendants of JoNadab (the son of Rechab),
Have paid attention to their father's commands,
And done everything that he told them to do;
It's because of this, says IsraEl's God, Jehovah of Armies;*

¹⁹ *No way will a man of JoNadab's sons,
Ever fail to stand before Me.'*

Chapter 36

¹ It was in the fourth year [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, that the Word of Jehovah came to me saying:

² 'Get a papyrus scroll for yourself,
And write all the words that I've said,
About both IsraEl and Judah,
And about all the nations of which I have spoken,
From the time of JosiAh, king of Judah,
Down to this very day!

³ Then, perhaps the house of Judah will hear,
Of all the bad things that I've planned to do,
And then turn from their wicked ways,
So I can cover their failures and sins.'

⁴ Therefore, JeremiAh called BarUch (the son of NeriAh), who wrote all the words of Jehovah that came from the mouth of JeremiAh on a papyrus scroll. ⁵ Then JeremiAh said to BarUch: 'Because I'm being watched, I can't enter the [Temple] of Jehovah. ⁶ So you'll have to go there and read this papyrus scroll into the ears of all the people who happen to

be in the House of Jehovah on a fast day... read it into the ears of all the Judeans who are coming there from all their cities, ⁷ and perhaps their need for mercy will fall before Jehovah and they'll turn from their evil ways. For the anger and rage that Jehovah has spoken against these people is great!

⁸ As the result, BarUch (the son of NeriAh) did everything that JeremiAh told him to do. He went and read the scroll of the words of the Lord there at the [Temple] of Jehovah. ⁹ And in the fifth year and ninth month [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, all the people of JeruSalem and of the house of Judah held an assembly to fast before Jehovah, ¹⁰ and BarUch again read the scroll of the words of JeremiAh into the ears of all the people who were there at the [Temple] of Jehovah. [He did this] from the [apartment] of GemariAh (the son of Shapha) the scribe, in the upper courtyard, which is in front of the threshold of the [Temple's] New Gate.

¹¹ Well, after MichaiAh (the son of GemariAh and grandson of ShaPhan) heard all the words of Jehovah being read from the scroll, ¹² he went down to the palace of the king and into the house of the [royal] scribe, where {Look!} he found all the rulers gathered – EliShama the scribe, DalaiJa (the son of ShemaiAh), ElNathan (the son of AchBor), GemariAh (the son of ShaPhan), ZedekiAh (the son of HananiAh), and all the supervisors. ¹³ Then MichaiAh told them everything that he'd heard BarUch read from the scroll into the ears of the people. ¹⁴ So the rulers sent for BarUch (the son of NeriAh, the son of JeHudi, the son of NathaniAh, the son of ShelemiAh, the son of Cushi) and told him: 'Pick up the scroll that you read into the ears of the people and bring it here!' Then BarUch (the son of NeriAh) picked up the scroll and went down to them, ¹⁵ and they said, 'Now, read that scroll into our ears!' And BarUch read it to them.

¹⁶ Well, after they heard all the words being read, each one started advising his neighbor, and they said to BarUch: 'We've decided that we should announce all these words to the king!' ¹⁷ And they asked BarUch: 'Just where were you when you wrote all these words?' ¹⁸ And he replied: 'These words came from the mouth of JeremiAh... he's the one who spoke the words. All I did was record them in the scroll!'

¹⁹ Then the rulers said to BarUch: 'Go somewhere and hide... both you and JeremiAh! Don't let anyone know where you are!'

²⁰ So they had the scroll kept under guard in the house of EliShama the scribe, and they went into the courtyard of the king and told the king everything that it said. ²¹ Then the king sent JehuDi to get the scroll, and he went and took it from the house of EliShama the scribe, then JehuDi read it before the king and all the rulers who were sitting around him.

²² The king happened to be in his winter palace at the time (for it was the ninth month), and he was sitting in front of his fireplace. ²³ And after JeHudi had read just three or four lines, [the king] shredded [the scroll] with a scribe's razor and tossed it into the fire in his fireplace. As the result, the papyrus scroll was entirely burned up and destroyed.

²⁴ Well, nobody was surprised... none of those who were there ripped their clothes... not the king, any of his servants, or any of those who heard those words. ²⁵ However, although ElNathan, DalaiJa, and GemariAh had suggested to the king that he shouldn't burn the papyrus, ²⁶ he refused to listen to them. Then the king told JerahMeEl (the king's son), SaraiAh (the son of AzriEl), and ShelemiAh (the son of AbDeEl) to go and arrest both

BarUch the scribe and JeremiAh the Prophet. However, these men were already in hiding.

²⁷ Well, after the king burned the scroll that BarUch wrote containing all the words that were spoken by JeremiAh, the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh again, saying,

²⁸ 'Take another scroll of papyrus
And write the same words that you wrote in that scroll,
Which King JehoiAkim burned.

²⁹ Then tell JehoiAkim (king of Judah),
That Jehovah says this:

*'Though you have burned up this scroll,
You asked why I had it written.
For it told you that Babylon's king,
Will enter this land and destroy it,
Wiping away both men and beasts.*

³⁰ 'And for this, Jehovah has said this against [you]:

*'O JehoiAkim, you king of Judah,
Who is sitting upon David's throne;
No longer will you sit [on that throne];
For, into the sweltering heat of the day,
And into the icy cold of the night,
Your decaying flesh will be tossed,*

*³¹ Since I'm coming against you, your family, and sons.
And because of their lawless ways,
Upon you and those in JeruSalem and Judah,
I'll bring all the evils about which I've warned,
And to which you chose not to listen.'*

³² Then JeremiAh took another papyrus scroll and gave it to BarUch (the son of NeriAh) the scribe, and he once again wrote the same words that came from the mouth of JeremiAh upon it – all the words that JehoiAkim the king of Judah had burned in the fire – and he added many more words to it (such as these).

Chapter 37

¹ Well thereafter, ZedekiAh (the son of JosiAh) started reigning in place of ConiJah (the son of JehoiAkim), whom NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon had appointed to reign in the land of Judah. ² But he, his servants, and the people of the land wouldn't listen to words that Jehovah had spoken through JeremiAh either. ³ But later, King ZedekiAh sent JehuKal (the son of ShelemiAh) and ZephaniAh (the son of MaAseJah) the Priest to JeremiAh to say this to him: 'Please pray to Jehovah your God for us.'

⁴ Well at the time, JeremiAh was free to come and go wherever he wanted in the city, because they hadn't put him in prison. ⁵ But when the Chaldeans heard that the armies of PharaOh were marching from the land of Egypt, they [started their attack] on JeruSalem. ⁶ And that's when the word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh that said, ⁷ 'Jehovah the God of IsraEl says that you are to say this to the king of Judah (the person who sent you to inquire of Me):

*{Look!} These armies of Pharaoh that are marching to help you,
Will turn and flee back to Egypt.*

*⁸ And then the Chaldeans will come here,
And they will wage war on this city...
They'll take it and burn it with fire!*

⁹ 'Jehovah says:

*Now your souls shouldn't think about saying,
The Chaldeans will turn back once more,
Because, there's no way that will happen.*

*¹⁰ 'And if you should beat the Chaldeans,
Who are coming to wage war against you;
Even the wounded that they leave behind,
Will arise and burn this city with fire.'*

¹¹ Well, that's what happened... soon the Chaldean armies [attacked] JeruSalem right in front of the armies of Pharaoh.

¹² Meanwhile, JeremiAh had left JeruSalem and gone to the land of BenJamin to purchase some land there among his people. ¹³ But when he arrived at the gates of BenJamin, IriJah (the son of ShelemiAh and grandson of HananiAh) had him arrested. He seized JeremiAh and accused him of running away to the Chaldeans!

¹⁴ But [JeremiAh] replied: 'That's a lie! I'm NOT running away to the Chaldeans!'

However, IriJah refused to listen. He arrested JeremiAh and took him before the local rulers. ¹⁵ Then, because the rulers [hated] JeremiAh, they had him flogged and sent him to the house of JoNathan the scribe, which had been turned into a prison. ¹⁶ There JeremiAh [was thrown] into an [outhouse] pit [near] the [main] house, where he was confined for several days.

¹⁷ Finally, King ZedekiAh sent for him, and the king asked him secretly whether he had received any word from Jehovah. And JeremiAh replied, 'Yes... He says that you'll be handed over to the king of Babylon!'

¹⁸ Then JeremiAh asked the king this: 'How have I wronged you, your servants, or your people, so that you'd have me thrown into a prison latrine... ¹⁹ and where are those prophets who prophesied to you and told you there's no way that the king of Babylon will ever come into this land?'

²⁰ 'Now, hear this, O Lord, O king: You must show mercy on me as I'm standing here before you... you must not return me to the house of JoNathan the scribe and allow me to die there!'

²¹ So the king gave orders, and then they locked JeremiAh in the guard house, where they provided him with a loaf of bread each day (which was baked outside the city) until there was no more bread left. And after that, JeremiAh stayed in the courtyard of the guards.

Chapter 38

¹ Well, ShephatiJah (the son of MatTan), GedaliAh (the son of Pashur), JuKal (the son of ShelemiAh), and Pashur (the son of MelchiAh) heard the words that JeremiAh had

spoken to the people when he warned them that ² Jehovah had told him that anyone who remained in the city would die by the broadsword, famine, and plague, but that those who [surrendered] to the Chaldeans could save their own lives and live. ³ For Jehovah said:

'When it comes to being handed over;
This city will be handed over,
To the armies of Babylon's king,
And he will thereafter take it.'

⁴ So those rulers went to the king and told him this: 'We have to do away with that man, because he's weakening the hands of the troops that remain in this city and the hands of all the people when he says things like that. He doesn't prophesy about peace, he just tells us bad things!'

⁵ So (because the king was unable to resist them) King ZedekiAh said: 'Look! There he is in your hands!'

⁶ As the result, they took JeremiAh and threw him into the [outhouse pit] that belonged to MelchiJah (the king's son), which was located in the courtyard of the guard. They took rough cords and lowered him into the pit, which contained no water, just manure, and there he stayed in the filth.

⁷ Well, the Ethiopian Eunuch EbedMelech happened to be in the King's courtyard when they threw JeremiAh into the pit. At the time, the king was seated at the Gate of BenJamin; ⁸ so EbedMelech left the king's palace and went to speak to the king. He said: ⁹ 'My lord, O king; These men have done something very wicked by dropping the Prophet JeremiAh into the outhouse pit, for he'll starve to death there, since there's no more bread left in the city!'

¹⁰ So the king gave orders to EbedMelech, saying: 'Take thirty men to the pit and pull him out, so he doesn't die.'

¹¹ Well at that, EbedMelech gathered the men. Then they went to the sub-basement of the king's palace and found some old rags and ropes, and they tossed them down to JeremiAh in the pit, ¹² saying, 'Wrap these around you!' And that's what JeremiAh did. ¹³ Then they lifted him with the ropes and pulled him up out of the pit; and thereafter, JeremiAh again stayed in the courtyard of the guards.

¹⁴ Well after that, the king sent for JeremiAh while he (the king) was staying in the house of AsaLiseEl (which is located inside the [Temple area] of Jehovah). And the king said to him: 'I want to ask you something... and don't hide the truth from me!'

¹⁵ But JeremiAh asked, 'If I answer you [truthfully], won't you just have me killed? Besides, you haven't listened to any of the advice that I've given to you so far.'

¹⁶ Then the king secretly swore an oath to him, saying, 'As Jehovah who gave us this life lives; I won't kill you or hand you over to these men who are seeking your life!'

¹⁷ So JeremiAh said to him, 'Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl said this: *If you should go and surrender to the governors of Babylon's king, you will live... you'll save your own life and this city won't be burned with fire... both you and your family will live!* ¹⁸ *But if you don't go [and surrender], this city will be handed over to the Chaldeans and they'll burn it with fire. And after that happens, there's no way that you'll be saved*

from their hands.'

¹⁹ Then the king said to JeremiAh: 'But if I do that, I'll have a problem with the Judeans who went over to the side of the Chaldeans... if I'm handed over to them, they'll make [life miserable for] me!'

²⁰ But JeremiAh told him: 'There's no way that you'll be handed over to those people. You should listen to the word of Jehovah that I've spoken to you, because it would be better for you to save your own life and survive! ²¹ However, if you don't choose to go out and surrender, this is what Jehovah has said:

²² *'{Look!} All the women who remain in [your] house,
Will be carried to the king of Babylon's princes.
Then these women will say that your allies deceived you;
For they care so little about you,
That they'll turn and stumble your feet,
In order to bring you to ruin.*

²³ *'Then they'll take your wives and your children,
And there's no way that you will be saved...
You'll be captured by Babylon's king,
And this city will then be burned to the ground.'*

²⁴ Then ZedekiAh said to JeremiAh: 'If you don't speak about this to anyone else, you won't die. ²⁵ But if the rulers should hear that I've spoken to you and then come to you and ask, *What did you say to the king... if you don't hide it from us, we won't do away with you... what did you say to the king?* ²⁶ You must tell them: *I went to plead for mercy before the eyes of the king. I just asked him not to take me back to the house of JoNathan and let me die there.'*

²⁷ Well thereafter, the rulers did come to JeremiAh and ask him, and he just said what the king told him to say. And after that, they didn't say any more, because they didn't know anything. ²⁸ So JeremiAh stayed in the courtyard of the guards until the time that JeruSalem was captured.

Chapter 39

¹ Well, it was in the ninth year and tenth month [of the reign] of ZedekiAh the king of Judah that NebuChadNezzar, the king of Babylon, came to JeruSalem with all his armies and attacked it. ² And it was in the eleventh year, on the fourth month and ninth day of ZedekiAh's reign that the city's walls were breached. ³ Then all the governors of the king of Babylon entered [the city] and sat down at the Central Gate. There was NergalSharezer, SamGar, NeboSarsechim, NebuSarkes, NergalShareZer (the King's advisor), and all the rest of the governors of the king of Babylon.

⁴ Meanwhile, ZedekiAh (the king of Judah) and all his soldiers had fled the city during the night, going through the king's garden and then through the gate that leads between the city wall and the fortification around the wall, following the road to the ArabAh. ⁵ But the Chaldean army chased them down, catching up with ZedekiAh on the other side of JeriCho. Then they carried him back to NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon, who was at RibLah (a city in the land of HaMath), where he passed judgment on him... ⁶ and the

king of Babylon had ZedekiAh's sons killed there in front of his eyes (there in RibLah), along with all the rest of the rulers of Judah. ⁷ Then he had ZedekiAh blinded and bound in shackles, before he was led off to Babylon.

⁸ After that, the Chaldeans set the King's palace and the houses of the people on fire and demolished them. ⁹ Then all those who were left in the city and the deserters were taken before the king of Babylon, ¹⁰ and NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) had them carried off to Babylon. However, he did leave many of the poor people of the land of Judah and those who were of no importance behind, assigning them over the fields and vineyards.

¹¹ Then NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon) gave instructions to NebuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) concerning JeremiAh. He said, ¹² 'Take him and keep an eye on him... but don't do anything bad to him. Just treat him as you would like to be treated.'

¹³ So NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards), as well as NabuShasban, RabSares, Nergel, SharEzer, RabMag, and all the princes of the king of Babylon sent for JeremiAh. ¹⁴ They took him out of the courtyard of the guards and handed him over to GedaliAh (the son of AhiKam and grandson of ShaPhan), who then led him out to sit among the rest of the people. ¹⁵ But it was while he was still in the courtyard of the guards that the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh, telling him this:

¹⁶ 'Go speak to the black man, EbedMelech,
And tell him that thus says Jehovah...
Yes, say that the God of IsraEl said this:

*'{Look!} I've fulfilled My words on this city,
To do just bad things, not good!
And now, though you will have to stand before them;
¹⁷ In that day, I will be there to save you, says Jehovah.
I will not hand you over,
To stand before those faces you fear.*

*¹⁸ 'So when it comes to saving, I'll save you...
No way will you fall by the sword...
Your reward will be your own life,
Because you put faith in Me, says Jehovah.'*

Chapter 40

¹ Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh again, after he had been led off in shackles by NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) and after he'd been separated from the rest of the Judeans who were being relocated from RamAh to [the empire of] Babylon.

² Then, as the chief of the guards was leading him away, he said to JeremiAh: 'Your God Jehovah spoke to you against this place and against all its badness, ³ and then the Lord did just as He said He would do, because you had all sinned against Him and you refused to listen to His voice. So these things that are happening to you are according to His Words.

⁴ But, after I remove the manacles from your hands, you can choose to travel with me to Babylon, where I'll watch out for you... or you can choose to just run away from here! Look! The whole land before you is good; so you can choose to go to anywhere that pleases your eyes, ⁵ or you can return to GedaliAh (the son of AhiKam and grandson of

ShaPhan), whom the king of Babylon has appointed over the land of Judah, and you can live with him there among your people... yes, if it seems good in your eyes to go there, then go!

Well after that, the chief of the guards held a feast for JeremiAh and they gave him some gifts before sending him away. ⁶ And thereafter, [JeremiAh] went to GedaliAh at MizPah and stayed among the people who'd been left behind in the land.

⁷ Also, when all the [Judean] generals who were still in the fields with their armies heard that the king of Babylon had appointed GedaliAh over the land, they brought their men and their wives to him, along with the simple people and the poor of the land... all those who hadn't been relocated by the Babylonians.

⁸ Then IshMaEl (the son of NathaniAh), JoHanan (the son of KareAh), SeraiAh (the son of TanHumeth), the sons of EphAi the Netophathite, and JezaniAh (the son of the MaAchathite) came to GedaliAh at MizPah... they and all their men went to him. ⁹ And GedaliAh swore an oath to them and their men, saying, 'You will no longer have anything to fear from the servants of the Chaldeans. Therefore, I urge you to come and live in this land and to work for the king of Babylon, since this is what would be the best thing for you to do! ¹⁰ {Look!} Understand that as I'm sitting here in MizPah, I'm doing so before the faces of the Chaldeans, and [they're protecting us from anyone] who might come against us. So, gather your wine, autumn fruits, and olive oil in jars, and live in these cities that we've been able to retain!'

¹¹ Well, when all the Judeans who were in MoAb (as well as those who were staying among the sons of AmMon and scattered throughout the land of Edom) heard that the king of Babylon had appointed an allotment to Judah and that he had appointed GedaliAh (the son of AhiKam) to be over them, ¹² they each returned from the places where they'd been scattered and they gathered to GedaliAh in MizPah in the land of Judah, bringing along all their wine, autumn fruits, and huge amounts of olive oil.

¹³ But thereafter, JoHanan (the son of KareAh) and all the generals of the armies that were still in the fields went to GedaliAh at MizPah ¹⁴ and they warned him, saying: 'Don't you know that BaAl Ish (the king of the sons of AmMon) is sending IshMaEl (the son of NathaniAh) to [assassinate] you?'

However, GedaliAh (the son of AhiKam) just didn't believe them.

¹⁵ And thereafter, JoHanan (the son of KareAh) went and spoke to GedaliAh in secret there in MizPah. He told him: 'I will go and strike down IshMaEl (the son of NathaniAh)... however, don't tell anyone! For he's going to kill you and scatter all the Judeans that have gathered here with you, then he will destroy the rest of Judah!'

¹⁶ But GedaliAh told JoHanan (the son of KareAh): 'Don't you dare to do this thing... for you're really lying about IshMaEl!'

Chapter 41

¹ Well, it was in the seventh month that IshMaEl, the son of NathaniAh and grandson of EliShama (who was related to the king) came to GedaliAh in MizPah with some of the royal appointees and ten other men. Then there, after sharing some bread, ² IshMaEl and the ten men who came with him got up and struck down GedaliAh with their swords,

killing him (the man who had been appointed over the land by the king) ³ as well as all the Judeans who were with him at MizPah and all the Chaldeans that they found there... he even killed the guards!

⁴ Then, two days after they'd killed GedaliAh (for no one had found out about it yet), ⁵ some eighty men came from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria with their beards shaved off and wearing torn clothes, beating their chests and carrying gifts of frankincense in their hands [to offer before] Jehovah. ⁶ So IshMaEl (the son of NathaniAh) came from MizPah to meet them, and they all started crying.

Then [IshMaEl] said to them: 'Now, let's all go and visit GedaliAh.' ⁷ And as they were traveling through the city, he and his men struck them down and killed them next to a well. ⁸ But as they were witnessing what was happening, ten of the men said to IshMaEl, 'You shouldn't kill us, because we've brought along treasures from the fields... wheat, barley, honey, and olive oil!'

So he passed them by and left them alive there in the midst of their [murdered] brothers.

⁹ The well where IshMaEl had tossed all those whom he'd killed was very large (it's the one that King Asa [had dug] in fear of BaAsha, the king of IsraEl)... yes, that's where IshMaEl (the son of NathaniAh) threw their [dead bodies].

¹⁰ Then IshMaEl took all the people who were left behind in MizPah – including the daughters of the king who had been left in the care of the chief of the guards by GedaliAh (the son of AhiKam) – and he set out for the other side [of the land] of the sons of AmMon.

¹¹ Well, when JoHanan (the son of KareAh) and the generals who were with him heard of all the evil things that IshMaEl (the son of NathaniAh) had done, ¹² he took the entire encampment and set out to wage war with him, catching up with him next to the water of the great pool in GibeOn. ¹³ And when all the people who were with IshMaEl saw JoHanan (the son of KareAh) coming with the generals, they were very happy ¹⁴ and they sided with JoHanan. ¹⁵ However, IshMaEl escaped along with eight of his men, heading toward the [land of] the sons of AmMon.

¹⁶ Then JoHanan took all the generals and their armies, along with all the remaining people from MizPah – those whom IshMaEl (the son of NathaniAh) had captured after he killed GedaliAh (the son of Ahikam), all the mighty men of war, as well as all the women, the eunuchs, and all the things that were left in GibeOn – ¹⁷ and they set up camp at KimHam (near BethLehem), as they headed toward the land of Egypt. ¹⁸ [For they had decided] to run from the Chaldeans, since they were afraid to face them because of IshMaEl's striking down GedaliAh (the man whom the king of Babylon had appointed to be over their land).

Chapter 42

¹ Well, they traveled on from there – all the generals, JoHanan (the son of KareAh), JezaniAh (the son of HoshaiAh), and all the people from the least to the greatest – and they went to JeremiAh the Prophet and said this: ² 'May our need for mercy fall before you! Please pray to Jehovah your God about all these things; for there were once as many of us as your eyes could see, but now we are so few. ³ Tell us which way Jehovah your

God says we should go, and that's the way we'll go!

⁴ And JeremiAh the Prophet said to them: 'I've heard you, so {Look!} I will pray to Jehovah our God about the things you've said, and then I'll announce to you whatever Jehovah tells me... there's no way that I'll hide a single word from you!'

⁵ And they replied to JeremiAh: 'May Jehovah be a righteous and trustworthy witness against us if we fail to follow every word that Jehovah your God sends to us. ⁶ We will obey [every word] from the voice of our God Jehovah, the One to whom we are sending you, whether it's for the good or for the bad! We will pay attention and listen to the voice of our God Jehovah, so that things will go well for us!'

⁷ Well, it was ten days later that the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh. ⁸ So he called for JoHanan (the son of KareAh), the generals, and all the people (from the least to the greatest), ⁹ and he said to them, 'Jehovah, the God of IsraEl to whom you sent me, has heard all your prayers before Him. ¹⁰ [And this is what He told me to say]:

*'If you wish to survive, you must stay in this land...
For I'll build you up, not wipe you away...
I'll plant you and not pluck you out...
I'll bring you rest from the bad that I've sent.*

*¹¹ 'Don't be in fear of Babylon's king,
The one whose face you now fear...
No, don't be afraid, says Jehovah;
For I'm with you and I will save you...
I will rescue you from his hands!*

*¹² 'I will grant you this one act of kindness,
And I will show mercy upon you...
For I'll take you back to your land.*

*¹³ 'But if you should say to yourselves,
No way will we stay in this land,
And you fail to obey the voice of your God...*

*¹⁴ Yes, if you should say, There's no way...
For we've chosen to go down to Egypt,
So we will no longer know war,
Or hear the sounds of the trumpets,
Nor will we go hungry, because there's no bread...
We'll [go down to Egypt] and live there;*

*¹⁵ Then, hear the Word of Jehovah,
O you remnant of Judah!
For Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, says this:
If you point your faces toward Egypt...
If you enter [that land] and then plan to stay...*

*¹⁶ The broadsword that you are facing
– The one of which you're in fear –
Will also find you in Egypt.
And the famine that you have been facing,*

Will also overtake you in Egypt...
For that is where you will die!

¹⁷ 'Yes, all those men whose faces are set,
To go down to Egypt and live,
Will fall by the broadsword, famine, and plague...
None will survive all the evils,
Which I will be bringing upon them!

¹⁸ 'Jehovah of Armies, the ² God of IsraEl, said this:
*As My rage has dripped on JeruSalem,
My rage will drip upon you,
Should you choose to go down into Egypt.*

*'You'll become a land that's unwalked,
And come under the hands of other men...
A cursed [people] you'll be, who are scorned,
And never again will you see this [land]!*

¹⁹ 'Yes, this is what Jehovah spoke against you, O remaining ones of Judah... you must not go down into Egypt!

'Now, you're aware of all this, for I've testified to you about it today! ²⁰ But you [weren't really being honest] with yourselves when you sent me to Jehovah your God and said, *Pray to the Lord for us and we'll do whatever Jehovah our God tells us... whatever He says, we'll do!*

²¹ And now, although I've warned you, you won't listen to the voice of Jehovah your God and follow [the words] that He sent to you. So you will come to your end in that place where you now want to go and live, by means of the broadsword, famine, and plague.'

Chapter 43

¹ Well, just after JeremiAh had finished speaking all the words that Jehovah their Lord God had sent to them, ² AzariAh (the son of HoshaiAh), JoHanan (the son of KareAh), and all the proud ones started shouting at JeremiAh and saying: 'You're lying! Our God Jehovah didn't send you to tell us that we shouldn't go down into Egypt and live there! ³ And look at BarUch (the son of NeriJah)... he has joined with you against us to hand us over to the Chaldeans, so that they can just kill us or move us to Babylon!'

⁴ Well, JoHanan (the son of KareAh), the generals, and all the people refused to listen to the voice of Jehovah and stay in the land of Judah. ⁵ So JoHanan took all the generals, all the rest of the Judeans who had returned from the nations (where they'd been scattered) to live in the land of Judah, ⁶ as well as all the mighty men, the women, the children, the remaining daughters of the king, all the souls that had been left behind by NabuZarAdan (the chief of the [Babylonian] guards), as well as GedaliAh (the son of AhiKam), ⁷ the Prophet JeremiAh, and BarUch (the son of NeriJah), and they went to TahPanHes in Egypt. For they refused to listen to the voice of Jehovah.

⁸ And it was while JeremiAh was in TahPanHes that the voice of the Lord came to him, saying:

⁹ 'Take two huge rocks for yourself,

And [bury] them under the thresholds,
Of the gates of PharaOh's house in TahPanHes.
Do this in front of all Judah's men,
¹⁰ And tell them that thus says Jehovah of Armies:

*'{Look!} I'll send for My servant, NebuChadNezzar,
And he'll set his throne on these [buried] rocks,
And lay his shields down upon them.*

*¹¹ For, he'll come and then attack Egypt,
Bringing death to those who are already dead,
Resettlement to those who've been moved away,
And the sword to those who bear swords.*

*¹² 'Then he'll burn the [temples] of their gods,
And he will resettle them all...
Yes, the land of Egypt, he'll fumigate,
As a shepherd fumigates his own clothes...
Only then will he leave there in peace.*

*¹³ 'He'll destroy the columns of the City of the Sun,
And he'll burn Egypt's gods in a fire.'*

Chapter 44

¹ Then the Word of the Lord once again came to JeremiAh concerning the Judeans who were living in the land of Egypt... those who had settled near the watchtower, or in TahPanHes, or in Memphis, or in the land of Pathros. He said, ² 'Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl says this:

*'You have witnessed all the bad things,
That I brought upon JeruSalem,
And upon the cities of Judah;
And {Look!} they lie desolate down to this day...
No one lives there at all,*

*³ Because of their wicked faces,
And what they did to make Me feel bitter,
By burning incense to gods they've not known...
It's you and your fathers who did this!*

*⁴ 'So [each morning], I sent them My servants the Prophets,
To tell them not to do these bad things...
Those disgusting things that I've hated.*

*⁵ But your people wouldn't listen to Me,
Nor would their ears pay attention,
To make them turn from their evil ways,
Of burning incense before other gods.*

*⁶ 'So My anger and rage dripped upon them.
And now, all the cities of Judah
(All those around JeruSalem),
Have been desolated and burned...*

They lie unwalked to this day.

⁷ 'So Jehovah (IsraEl's Almighty God) asks you this:

*Why are you still bringing evil,
Into your lives, O My people...
Against your women, your infants, and babies,
So there'll be no survivors in Judah?*

⁸ 'For, you continue to make Me feel bitter,
By the [bad things] you do with your hands,
When you burn incense to other gods,
In the land of Egypt where you've gone to live.
So now, you'll be cut off and cursed,
And scorned among all the nations!

⁹ 'Have you forgotten the evils,
That your fathers committed...
The evils of Judah's kings;
The evils of all of your rulers;
And the bad things that your wives have done,
In JeruSalem and in Judah...

¹⁰ Which they've not stopped doing down to this day?

*'For, they have not learned to fear,
Nor have they followed the orders,
That I set before them and their fathers.*

¹¹ 'It's because of this,
Said IsraEl's God, Jehovah of Armies;
{Look!} Against you, I've now set My face,
Because of all the bad things you've done,
Since the time that I sent destruction to Judah.

¹² 'So I'll take the remnant of Judah,
That went down to Egypt to live,
And I'll cause them to fail throughout the whole land...
Yes, from the least to their greatest,
They'll fall by the broadsword and famine...
They'll be cursed, scorned, and destroyed!

¹³ 'I'll visit those who've settled in Egypt,
The same as I visited JeruSalem...
I'll bring the same broadswords, famines, and plagues,
¹⁴ Which [JeruSalem's people] could not escape.

*'So now, none of the remnant of Judah,
That went down to Egypt and hoped to return,
Will be allowed to go back again.
There's no way that they'll ever return...
Except for a few who'll escape.'*

¹⁵ Well, [none of the men] would reply to JeremiAh, because they all knew that their

wives were burning incense to other gods. And at the time, there was a great gathering of the women among all those who had settled in the land of Egypt at Pathros. And there these women said, ¹⁶ 'We won't pay any attention to the words that you've spoken to us in the Name of Jehovah, ¹⁷ and we'll do what we said we're going to do... we'll keep on burning incense to the Queen of Heaven! Yes, we'll keep on offering her [food and drink] as our fathers, our kings, our rulers, and the rest of us have done in Judah and around JeruSalem in the past... back when we were better off... back when we had enough bread to eat and things weren't so bad! ¹⁸ For it was only after we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and offering her [food and drink] that things became worse and we started failing due to the sword and from the famine. ¹⁹ Haven't you noticed all that has happened since we started burning incense to the Queen of Heaven... when we (without the aid of our husbands) made cakes and offered drinks to her?'

²⁰ Then JeremiAh replied to all the people (the mighty men, the women, and everyone else who had responded to him) saying: ²¹ 'When it comes to the incense that you've burned in the cities of Judah and in JeruSalem (you, your ancestors, your kings, your rulers, and the rest of the people of the land); Jehovah hasn't forgotten this! Yes, it has reached all the way up to His heart! ²² And it's because He was unable to bear all your wicked deeds and the disgusting things you were doing that He brought desolation upon your land... He made it an unwalked place and a curse to this day!

²³ 'You stood there before Him and burned incense – sinning against Jehovah – and you didn't pay any attention to the voice of the Lord, or to His instructions, or His Laws, or His proofs. Rather, you went and took up all these evil practices that you've continued to do down to this day.'

²⁴ And JeremiAh said to the women and all the people: 'So, hear the Word of Jehovah, all you Judeans who are now living in Egypt! ²⁵ For Jehovah the God of IsraEl says that you and your women have brought the fulfillment [upon yourselves] by your own mouths and your own hands, when you said that you will continue to acknowledge and burn incense to the Queen of Heaven, and to offer [food and drink] before her.

'So you plan to continue making offerings before her, do you? ²⁶ Well, because of this, hear the Word of the Lord, all Judah and those who have settled in the land of Egypt:

{Look!} I have sworn an oath by My Name, said Jehovah,

That My Name won't remain in the mouths of these Jews;

Because, they no longer say,

O Jehovah, our Lord;

Come and live among us in Egypt!

²⁷ *'{Look!} I'll be zealous about bringing them harm (not the good)!*

So the Jews who now live in Egypt,

Will fall by the broadsword and famine,

Until [they all] cease to be!

²⁸ *'Just the [few] who escape from the sword,*

Will ever return to Judea...

And there will be very few!

'Then, all the remnant of Judah

*(Those who went down to and now live in Egypt),
Will know whose words have proved to be true...
If it's My words, or those [of their gods].*

²⁹ *'And this is your sign, says Jehovah,
That I will visit this place...
So you'll know that My words have stuck upon you,
Because of your evil deeds:*

³⁰ *'{Look!} I'll hand the house of Egypt's King HophRa,
To his enemies and those who are seeking his life,
As I handed Judah's King ZedekiAh,
To his enemy, NebuChadNezzar,
Who was seeking his life.'*

Chapter 45

¹ Then these were the words that the Prophet JeremiAh spoke to BarUch (the son of NeriAh) as he was writing all the words that came from the mouth of JeremiAh in this scroll, which happened in the fourth year of [the reign of] JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh), the king of Judah. He said, ² 'Jehovah, the God of IsraEl, said this about you, O BarUch, ³ because you made this complaint:

*Alas! To my misery, the Lord has added hard labor;
For I went to bed moaning and then found no rest.*

⁴ 'So, Jehovah told me to say this to you:
*{Look!} That which I've built, I'll demolish,
And that which I've planted, I'll pluck...
Yes, even this land that is Mine.*

⁵ *'Were you looking for great things to happen?
If so, you had best take that thought from your mind;
For {Look!} upon all flesh I'm bringing what's bad, says Jehovah.
But as your reward, I'll give you your life,
No matter which way you may choose to go.'*

Chapter 46

¹ These are the words that Jehovah sent to JeremiAh the Prophet, against [each of] the nations. ² [He said this concerning] Egypt and the armies of PharaOh Necho the king of Egypt, who was at the EuPhrates River in CarChemIsh when he was [killed] by NebuChadNezzar, the king of Babylon, which happened in the fourth year [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (the son of JosiAh) the king of Judah:

³ 'Now, pick up your weapons and shields,
And then, get ready for battle!
⁴ Saddle the horses and mount up their riders;
Don your helmets and chest plates;
And then, pick up your spears!

⁵ 'Why are they frightened and running?
It's because their mighty have fallen,

And into exile, they're going...
They'll not return to their land,' says Jehovah.

⁶ 'Their nimble will not be able to flee,
And their strong won't be saved from those in the north,
For at the River EuPhrates, they'll fall.

⁷ 'What is this that's rising like a river...
Yes, like a river that's swollen?

⁸ The waters of the river of Egypt arose,
(Saying), *I will ascend and cover their land...*
I'll destroy their cities and those who live there.

⁹ 'Ready the chariots and mount up your horsemen!
Assemble the Ethiopians and Libyans,
All armed and carrying shields!

'Come, O Lydians, and stretch tight your bows,
¹⁰ For this day belongs to the Lord God of Armies,
Who'll arise to take vengeance upon His enemies.
Then the sword will devour and be filled...
It will get drunk on their blood.

'There'll be a sacrifice to Jehovah of Armies,
[Being offered by those] from the land to the north,
There at the River EuPhrates.

¹¹ 'So, go to Gilead for ointment,
[To heal] the virgin daughter of Egypt!
But the attempts to heal her will all be in vain,
And the ointments will do her no good.

¹² 'Now the nations have all heard your voices,
For your cries have filled the whole earth.
Warriors fighting warriors have weakened together,
And together, they've fallen [in battle].'

¹³ This is what Jehovah said through JeremiAh the Prophet concerning the coming of
NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon) to strike the land of Egypt:

¹⁴ 'Send the announcement to Egypt...
Let them hear it in Migdol,
And then, give warning to Memphis!
Tell those who live in TahPanHes,
Prepare your yew to be [chopped] by the sword!

¹⁵ 'Why are your mighty all lying face down?
They can't get up, for the Lord knocked them down!

¹⁶ 'Your mighty [armies] have weakened,
Then they turned to their comrades and said,
Let's arise and return to our people and homes...
Let's [flee from] the face of the Greeks!

¹⁷ 'You can call on the name, Pharaoh Necho,
The one who's the king of all Egypt,
But [his time of glory has past].

¹⁸ 'As I live,' says the King, Jehovah of Armies;
'As Tabor is found among mountains,
And as sure as Carmel is found by the sea,
¹⁹ I've come here to settle up matters.

'So get ready, O daughter of Egypt,
And you who are still left alive there;
For, Memphis will now be destroyed,
And she'll be referred to as Woe,
Because she'll be left without people.

²⁰ 'Egypt is like a heifer that's readied for slaughter,
By a broken branch that will come from the north.

²¹ For the soldiers they've hired are like calves,
That are cared for and very-well fed.
But, they will soon turn and all run away,
²² Because they won't wish to wait for that day,
When their destruction will come...
The time when they will be punished.

'Her voice is like the hissing of snakes,
That slither along in the sand.
So, they'll attack her with axes,
As though they are chopping up wood.

²³ 'Then, they will cut down her forests,' says Jehovah!
'For, no one can imagine their numbers...
As with locusts, there's no way to count them!

²⁴ 'Disgrace will come to the daughter of Egypt,
And she'll be given to the men from the north.'

²⁵ Yes, Israel's God, Jehovah of Armies says this:
'{Look!} Amun (the God of Thebes), will be punished.
For I will bring this on Egypt,
As well as on her gods and her kings...
To Pharaoh and those who are trusting in him.

²⁶ 'To those seeking their lives, I will hand them...
To the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar,
As well as to the hands of his servants.

'Once again, it will be like it was long ago,' says Jehovah.

²⁷ 'So My servant Jacob should not be afraid,
Nor should Israel ever be terrified.

'{Look!} For I'll bring you back from far away lands...
Your seed, from where they were captives.

Jacob will come and then sleep in peace,
And no one will bring them more trouble.

²⁸ 'So, don't be afraid, O Jacob, My child,' says Jehovah,
'For, I will be there with you!
And all the nations to which you were led,
Will be appointed to destruction...
All nations where I sent you will then be consumed.

'But though I'll never appoint you an end,
I will still judge and correct you.
I won't declare you free of all guilt, Nor will you then be acquitted.'

Chapter 47

¹ **These words of Jehovah came to JeremiAh the Prophet against the Philistines before PharaOh attacked Gaza:**

² Jehovah says:
'{Look!} From the north, the waters will rise,
To become a river that's flooding.
It will flood the land and all its good things...
Yes the city and all those who live there.

³ 'Then all the men will start crying...
And those living there will start shouting,
Because of the sounds of the beating of hoofs,
And the rumble of their chariot wheels.

'Fathers won't turn to [help] their own sons,
Because their hands will all be too weak,
⁴ In the day that he comes to destroy the Philistines...
To wipe away Sidon, Tyre, and their friends.

'To the Philistines, Jehovah is sending destruction,
As well as to CappaDocia's islands.

⁵ Baldness will come upon Gaza;
AshKelon will be thrown away,
Along with Anakim's [giants].'

⁶ How long will you strike with the sword of the Lord...
Until when, will it finally be stilled?
Please put it back into its sheath...
Lift it away and put it to rest!

⁷ But, what can make it be stilled?
For it came from Jehovah upon AshKelon,
And against [her cities] by the sea,
So all the rest would be shaken.

Chapter 48

¹ **Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, said this against MoAb:**

'Woe to Nebo, for it was destroyed,
And KiriAth JaiRim was taken...
Their forts were all vanquished and shamed.

² 'MoAb won't be dancing in HeshBon,
For God's planned many bad things against her.
Come cut her out of the nations!
Let's bring her end with the sword!

³ 'From HoroNaim comes the sound of men's shouts,
For, ruin and destruction's arrived...

⁴ MoAb will be wiped away!

Announce this too in Zogora!

⁵ For, Luhith is now filled with weeping,
And on the road to HoroNaim, they're crying.

'You can hear the cries of destruction;

⁶ So escape, and run for your lives...
Go and live in the desert like zebras!

⁷ 'Because you've relied on your treasures and forts...

This is why you'll be captured...
You'll be taken away and resettled,
Along with your princes and priests.

⁸ 'To all your cities, ruin will come...

None of your towns will be saved.
Even your valleys will then be destroyed,
As will all of your plains,' says Jehovah.

⁹ 'Post signs over MoAb that say she has plague;

So soon, she'll have to be burned.
Her cities will then become unwalked lands,
For there'll be no one living in them.

¹⁰ 'O cursed is the one who's indifferent,
When it comes to doing the work of the Lord...
Cursed is the one who holds back his sword!

¹¹ 'MoAb has rested since childhood,

Relying upon his own glory.
He's never poured dregs from pitcher to pitcher,
Nor has he been carried away.
So his sense of taste hasn't left him,
And his ability to smell still remains.

¹² 'But because of this,' says Jehovah,
'{Look!} Days are coming, when I will be sending,

Those who wish to lean upon him.

'They'll water [the wine] in his pitchers,
And they will break all his trumpets.

¹³ MoAb will be disgraced before Chemosh,
As IsraEl was disgraced before BethEl.

¹⁴ 'So, how can you say, *We are strong...*
All our men are mighty for war?

¹⁵ For, MoAb and his cities are gone...
His young men have fallen in slaughter,'
Says the King, Jehovah of Armies.

¹⁶ 'MoAb's day of harm has quickly arrived.

¹⁷ So, those around him should all move away,
And those who were trusting in him should now ask,
Who broke this famous one's staff...
Who broke that magnificent rod?

¹⁸ 'So, descend from your glory and sit where it's damp,
O you daughters of Dibon!
Now that MoAb has been destroyed,
Someone is coming to you,
Who will destroy all your forts!

¹⁹ 'Stand in the road and then look,
O you who are sitting in AroEr,
Then, ask the fleeing what has happened.

²⁰ 'MoAb is broken and he's been disgraced.
So shriek, cry out, and announce it in Arnon,
That mighty MoAb has fallen!

²¹ 'For, judgment has come to the land of Misor...
On MephaAth, JaHazah, and Holon,

²² As well as on Dibon and Nebo,
And on the house of the DiblaThaim.

²³ 'On KiriAth JaiRim, it has come,
And on the house of GaMul,
As well as on the house of MeOn.

²⁴ 'It has come on KiriAth and BozRah...
Upon all the cities of MoAb,
Both those that are near and those far away.

²⁵ 'The horn of MoAb is broken,
And his mighty arm is destroyed,' says Jehovah.

²⁶ 'Now, let [all his people] get drunk;
For before them, he made himself great.

'In his own vomit, MoAb will wallow...
He'll be considered a joke.

²⁷ And this was caused by you, IsraEl...
Your cunning ways brought this upon them,
Because they waged war [as your ally].

²⁸ 'The people of MoAb have all fled their towns,
And now they must live among rocks...
They must live like doves among rocks.

²⁹ 'I heard the insolence of MoAb,
And he was very insulting...
Then his insults and pride raised his heart.

³⁰ 'I'm aware of the [bad] things he's done,' says Jehovah,
'And from him, I've endured far too much...
Yes, I know of his [wicked] deeds.

³¹ 'Because of this, MoAb will shriek...
And the men of KeIr will be yelling,
Because of their squalid conditions!

³² 'The same as I've weeped over JaZer,
Is how I'll cry over you,
O great grapevine of SibMah.
For your vines have reached to the sea,
And touched the city of JaZer.

'Now, ruin has come to your autumn fruits,
And on those who are picking your grapes.

³³ 'But at CarMel, there's reason for shouting and joy;
For there's no one to tread MoAb's wine vats...
From morning to evening, they're [shouting in] joy.

³⁴ 'From HeshBon, to ElYaleh, and to JaHaz,
There now arises a cry;
From ZoAr to HoroNaim there's bleating,
As though they are three-year-old heifers.
For the waters at NimRim have dried.

³⁵ 'To MoAb, I will bring destruction,' says Jehovah;
'To this one who goes up to his shrines,
And burns incense there to his gods.

³⁶ 'So like pipes, MoAb's heart will soon resonate,
The same as My heart resonates
For all the people of KeIr-Aras...
Where like pipes, their [hearts] will resonate too,
Since the things that they've gained will all perish.

³⁷ 'Then all their heads will be sheared,
And all their beards will be shaved;
They'll be beating their chests with their hands,
And every loin will wear sackcloth.

³⁸ '[There'll be wailing] on the roof tops of MoAb,
As well as in all their squares,
Because, I will have smashed MoAb,' says Jehovah,
'Like a pot that is no longer used.

³⁹ 'O how very contrite;
O how MoAb's repented;
For, MoAb's now laughed at and shamed...
An object of horror to those [passing by].'

⁴⁰ Jehovah says:
'I'll spread and stretch out My wings over MoAb...
⁴¹ KiriAth and her forts will be seized.
In that day, the hearts of the armies of MoAb,
Will become like the hearts of their women.

⁴² 'MoAb will [soon] be destroyed,
And he will no longer be many;
For against him, Jehovah will prove Himself great.

⁴³ 'Snares, fear, and the pit have arrived,
Upon you who have settled in MoAb,' says Jehovah.

⁴⁴ 'For those fleeing in fear will fall into pits,
And those climbing out will be caught in a snare.
Yes I'm bringing these things upon MoAb,
In the year that I go there to visit,' says Jehovah.

⁴⁵ 'In the shadow of HeshBon, they stopped...
The army that was running away.
For, fire arose out of HeshBon,
And in SiHon's midst, there were flames,
Which devoured the forehead of MoAb,
And the scalps of the sons of SiHon.

⁴⁶ 'Woe upon you, O MoAb!
For the people of Chemosh have all been destroyed,
And their sons and daughters were carried away.

⁴⁷ 'But the captives of MoAb, I will return,
In the last days,' says Jehovah.

This was the judgment upon MoAb.

Chapter 49

¹ **To the sons of AmMon:**

Jehovah asked this:

'Are there no more sons in IsraEl...
Is there no one left to inherit [the land]?
Why has Moloch inherited Gad and his sons,
And why does he dwell in their cities?

² '{Look!}' Because of this, days will come,' says Jehovah,

'When I'll bring the disturbance of war,
To be heard in RabBah by AmMon's sons,
And then, they will all be destroyed.
So their land [will soon] be unwalked,
And their shrines will be burned up in fire.
Then, IsraEl will inherit its kingship,' says Jehovah.

³ 'Shout, O HeshBon, for Ai was destroyed!
Cry out, O daughters of RabBah,
And then, wrap sackcloth around you!
Give in and lament over Moloch;
For together, his priests and his rulers,
Will be carried away and resettled.

⁴ 'Why are there cheers in EmaKeim,
O you presumptuous daughter...
You who've relied on you treasures and asked,
Who would [dare to] come against me?

⁵ '{Look!}' I will bring you something to fear,'
Says Jehovah of Armies,
'From your cities, [your people] will scatter,
In whichever direction their faces [will look],
And those who flee will never return.

⁶ 'But the sons of AmMon, I will return,
From wherever they've been taken captive,' says Jehovah.

⁷ **To Edom:**

Jehovah says:
'There is no more wisdom in Teman;
For the council of their experts has been wiped away,
And their wisdom has been beguiled and undone.

⁸ 'So, get accustomed to sitting,
All you are living in Dedan;
For, in the day that I come to visit,
I will be bringing hard times.

⁹ 'Then, those who harvest grapes will arrive,
And they will leave nothing behind...
They'll come upon you and snatch you away,
As though they are thieves in the night.

¹⁰ 'For, as I had once dragged down Esau,
I'll uncover the things that you've tucked away...
No way can you keep them hidden.
Then, you'll be destroyed by a people,
Who are not your neighbors or brothers.

¹¹ 'So, abandon your orphans, that they might survive;

For, I will keep them alive,
As I will keep your widows alive,
Because they've put faith in Me.'

¹² Jehovah says:

'{Look!} Those who weren't under [My] Law,
Were given the cup from which they must drink.
And because you will be found guilty,
You will also drink from that cup.

¹³ 'For I swear this oath by Myself,' says Jehovah,
'That your land will soon be scorned and unwalked;
In her midst, you will be cursed,
And your cities will be deserts through the ages!'

¹⁴ Then I listened and heard this from Jehovah, for He sent His messengers to all the nations to tell them this:

'Gather and come here against her...

Arise and get ready for war!

¹⁵ {Look!} I've appointed her to be small among nations,
And something despised by all people.

¹⁶ 'For her [schemes] have worked out against her,
And because of the audacious ways of her heart,
Her people will live in the hills,
And in holes among rocks...
But if they set their nests higher than eagles,
I will still bring them back down,' says Jehovah.

¹⁷ 'Then Edom will be a land that's unwalked...
All who go there will just be amazed,
And whistle at what has happened to her.

¹⁸ 'For as Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed,
Along with all those who lived there,' said Jehovah;
'No man will sit [in Edom] again,
Nor will sons of men ever dwell there.

¹⁹ '{Look!} Like lions, they will then arrive,
[And attack] AiTham from the Jordan;
They'll quickly drive them out of their land,
And a young man [will serve as their ruler]!

'For, who else is there that is like Me,
And by whom can I be opposed...
Which shepherd can stand and oppose Me?'

²⁰ So, hear the plan of Jehovah...
His plan against Edom and what He's devised,
Against those dwelling in Teman:

'Their smallest of sheep will be taken away,

And the places where they rest will be empty.

²¹ The sounds of their downfall will shake the whole earth,
And their cries will be heard 'cross the seas.

²² '{Look!}' He'll soar like an eagle and spot her;
Then, stretch his wings out toward her forts.
In that day, the hearts of the mighty of Edom,
Will become like women with birth pains.'

²³ **To Damascus:**

'HaMath will soon be disgraced,
And from Arpad, they'll hear bad reports...
They will be startled and enraged,
And they'll be unable to rest.

²⁴ 'Damascus was weakened and she turned to flee...
But by trembling, she was overcome.
Concern and grief held her down,
Like a woman who's about to give birth.

²⁵ 'O you praised city that was never abandoned...
You town that was ever so loved;

²⁶ Your young men will fall in your squares,
And your mighty will all be cut down,' says Jehovah of Armies.

²⁷ 'For I'll kindle a fire on the walls of Damascus,
And burn the Plaza of the Sons of Hadad.'

²⁸ **To Cypress and the queen in her courtyard, [concerning the attack by] NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon.**

Jehovah of Armies says this:
'Arise and go up to Cypress,
Then wage an attack upon Kedem's sons.

²⁹ Take all their tents and their sheep,
As well as their clothes, their camels, and jars;
For I've called for destruction upon them.

³⁰ 'Flee right away... just grab what you need,
O you who rest in your yards,' says Jehovah!
'King NebuChadNezzar has made plans against you,

³¹ So get up and flee to a nation that's safe,
All you who are sitting and resting,
In a place with no gates and no bars.

³² 'Then, all your camels will be plundered,
And your cattle will all be destroyed.
I'll blow them away with the winds,
And shave them away from your sides...
I'll bring your enemies to drive them away,' said Jehovah.

³³ 'Then your yards will become ostrich playgrounds...

Places unwalked through the ages.
No way will men ever sit there again,
Nor will sons of men ever live there.'

³⁴ Well, after the Lord told the Prophet JeremiAh what would happen, all these things happened to Elam around the beginning of the reign of ZedekiAh, the king of Judah. ³⁵
For Jehovah of Armies told him this:

'Look! I will break Elam's bows,
As well as his sources of power.
³⁶ I'll bring the four winds against Elam,
From the four corners of the skies,
And they'll be scattered to those four winds.

'Many nations will come against Elam,
To push them out of their land.
³⁷ Before their foes, they'll be scattered
(Before those who are seeking their lives).
For I'm bringing upon them My anger and rage,' says Jehovah,
'And I'll chase them away with My sword,
Until they're completely consumed.

³⁸ 'Then in Elam, I'll establish My throne...
And that's where I'll send a king and great men,' says Jehovah.

³⁹ 'But in the last days, I'll return,
All the captives of Elam,' says Jehovah.

Chapter 50

¹ These are the words that Jehovah spoke against Babylon and the land of the Chaldea through the mouth of JeremiAh, the Prophet:

² 'Announce it to all the nations...
Make it heard and put up a sign...
Let everyone hear (do not hide it)!

*'Say, Babylon has now been captured,
And to Bel, disgrace has arrived.
MeroDach has been [destroyed]...
All of his idols were shamed,
And they have been [carried away].*

³ 'For a nation from the north came against her,
And brought her land to extinction.
So, no one will ever live there again...
None from among men or beasts.

⁴ 'During those days and at that time,
They will be entered and shaken,' says Jehovah.
'Then the sons of IsraEl and Judah,
Will get together and leave her.

'Before Jehovah, they'll be weeping [in joy];

For they'll be seeking their God.

⁵ They'll ask for directions to Zion,
And that's where they'll set their faces to go.

'In Jehovah, they will seek refuge,
And they'll remember His Sacred Agreement.

⁶ 'For My people became as sheep that were lost,
Since their shepherds had pushed them into the hills...
They led them astray from mountain to hill...
And then they just walked away.

⁷ 'So, those who found them consumed them.
Their enemies said, *We won't spare them,*
Because they've sinned against God,
In those pastures [that He gave] to their fathers.

⁸ 'So, get out of Babylon's midst;
Flee from the land of Chaldea!
Escape like sheep being chased by wild beasts!

⁹ For {Look!} against Babylon, I will arise,
With great nations from the lands in the north,
Which will now come and attack her,
And take [her people] as captives...
For the arrows of their finest of warriors,
Will not return without seeing success.

¹⁰ 'Then those in Chaldea will be plundered,
And those who loot her will take all they want,' says Jehovah.

¹¹ 'For, she was glad and found glory,
When My inheritance was plundered by her...
She leaped like a calf in My pasture,
And then, she gored like a bull.

¹² 'So, she will bring shame to her mother,
And become the least of the nations...
A barren parched land, and a desert.

'{Look!} It will lie empty as a place that's unwalked,

¹³ For because of the rage of Jehovah,
She will no longer be lived in...
Yes, everyone there will be gone.
And those who travel through Babylon,
Will look sadly and whistle at her fate.

¹⁴ 'So, come and lay siege against Babylon...
Stretch your bows and then shoot her down!
Don't spare the bows in your attack,
For against Jehovah, she's sinned.

¹⁵ 'Then, tie up her hands and lead her away...

Raze her parapets and walls!
For, this is vengeance from God...
Do to her as she once did to you!

¹⁶ 'May Babylon's seed then be wiped away
(Those who [swing] sickles in the harvest),
Before the swords of the Greeks,
Who will send them all back to their people...
Each one will return to his home.

¹⁷ 'IsraEl was a flock that had strayed,
So lions pushed them out [of their land].
Assyria's king ate them first,
And then Babylon's king chewed on their bones.

¹⁸ 'But because of the things they will do,' says Jehovah of Armies;
'{Look!} I'll take vengeance on Babylon's king and his land,
As I've done to Assyria's king.

¹⁹ 'And then; I'll bring IsraEl back to their pastures,
And in Bashan and CarMel, they'll feed...
Yes, upon Ephraim's mountains,
And in Gilead, their souls will be satisfied.

²⁰ 'In those days and at that time,' says Jehovah;
'In IsraEl, they'll search for unrighteous things,
But they will no longer exist.
And though they may seek sins in Judah,
They won't be able to find them...
They'll only find kindness from those who return.

²¹ 'So, go to that land and attack her...
Attack all the people who live there...
Punish the ones who once clapped their hands...
Wipe them away with the sword,' says Jehovah!
'Do to them, what I told you to do!

²² 'There's the sound of destruction and war,
Within the land of Chaldea.

²³ O how they'll be defeated and smashed,
By the hammer of the whole earth...
O how the nations will bring,
Extinction upon Babylon!

²⁴ 'They'll attack and she will be captured;
Before those in Babylon know,
That they'll be relocated and taken away;
For it's Me, Jehovah, whom they've opposed!

²⁵ 'The Lord has opened His storehouse,
And withdrawn the things of His rage,
To do the work of Jehovah of Armies,

Within the land of Chaldea.

²⁶ 'So because it's her time, open her stores...
Then, search her through like a cave,
And thereafter, you should destroy her...
Don't leave a trace [of where she had been]!

²⁷ 'Dry up all of her fruits,
And carry them down to the slaughter!
Woe to them, for their day has arrived...
The time for them to be punished!

²⁸ 'There's the sound of [people] who are fleeing...
From Babylon's lands, they are running.
So announce Jehovah's vengeance to Zion...
God's vengeance over what they did to His Temple.

²⁹ 'Urge many to come against Babylon...
Tell all to stretch tight their bows!
Set your camps up all around her,
And allow no one to escape.

'Pay her back for the things she has done...
Do to her as she once did to you!
For it's against Jehovah that she has been standing...
Against IsraEl's Most Holy God.

³⁰ 'It's because of this, that she'll fall.
And all the young men in her squares,
As well as all of her warriors,
Will be [stabbed through] in that day,' says Jehovah.

³¹ '{Look!} I am against you, O proud one,'
Says Jehovah of Armies,
'And your day has finally come...
The day for you to be punished!

³² 'The insolence you had will now fall,
And no one will raise it again.
For, in her woods, I'll kindle a fire,
To devour everything that's around her.'

³³ Jehovah of Armies also said:
'To the sons of IsraEl, you acted as tyrants,
And to the sons of Judah, you were even worse...
You've been tyrants to all whom you've captured,
And not let them return to their homes.

³⁴ 'But the Mighty One will ransom them back
(Jehovah the Almighty is His Name).
He judges His opponents in fairness,
Before He takes them away from their lands.

And now, He is sending His rage,
To those who are living in Babylon.

³⁵ 'Bring a sword upon the Chaldeans,' says Jehovah,
'And upon all of Babylon's people...
Upon all her great men and experts!

³⁶ 'Bring a sword against her clairvoyants,
And prove them all to be fools!
Bring a sword against all her soldiers,
And let them each receive wounds!

³⁷ 'Bring a sword upon all their horses,
And upon their chariots also.
Then those in her midst will be acting like girls!

'Bring a sword upon all her treasures...
[Yes, haul them away] as your loot!

³⁸ 'Though she has relied on her waters,
They will soon be disgraced.
For, they are a land of carved idols,
Before which, those in the islands have bowed.

³⁹ So their idols will be sent to those islands,
Where, among chained demons, they'll dwell.

'Through the ages, she'll not be lived in again...
Through generations, no one will camp there.

⁴⁰ For as God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah,
As well as the places round-about them,' said the Lord,
'There's no way that men will live there again,
Nor will sons of men ever stay there.

⁴¹ 'Look! There are people who are coming from the north...
A great nation will come from the ends of the earth,
Along with many [great] kings,
⁴² All carrying arrows and swords.

'They will be very audacious;
For, they will act without mercy,
And their voices [will roar] like the seas.

'O you daughters of Babylon;
They'll come against you on horses,
And with fire, as they're preparing for war.

⁴³ 'Babylon's king will hear the report,
And then, his hands will grow weak...
He'll be gripped with pangs like a woman giving birth.

⁴⁴ '{Look!} Like a lion, he'll ascend from the Jordan,
And he'll go to a place called AiTham.
Then quickly, I'll drive them upon her...

I'll set all their young men against her.

'For who else is like Me and who can resist...
What shepherd can stand before Me?

⁴⁵ 'So, hear the plan of Jehovah...
His plans against Babylon,
And the equipment that He has devised,
Against those in the land of Chaldea.

'Surely, their lambs will all be destroyed...
Surely, their fields will be captured!

⁴⁶ 'From the sounds of Babylon's conquest,
All on the earth will be shaken,
And her cries will be heard in all nations.'

Chapter 51

¹ Jehovah said:

'{Look!} I'll awaken a wind that burns and destroys,
Against Babylon's people,
And all the Chaldeans who live there.

² 'Against Babylon, I'm sending the proud,
Who'll insult her and wipe out her land.
Woe to Babylon and those round-about her,
In the day that she is oppressed.

³ 'Let the bowman stretch out his bow,
And strap on all of his weapons!
Do not spare her young men...
Wipe all her armies away...

⁴ May all in the land of Chaldea fall dead.

'May their [mercenary troops] be pierced through and fall.

⁵ For, IsraEl and Judah aren't the widows,
Of their God, Jehovah the Almighty.

'It was because their land became filled with injustice,
And from IsraEl's holy ways, they had strayed,
That they were allowed to be captured.

⁶ 'So, those in Babylon's midst should now flee...
Each man should save his own soul!
In her unrighteous ways, do not get involved,
Since it's time for her to be punished [by God]...
He'll repay her for the bad things she's done!

⁷ 'Within the hands of Jehovah,
Babylon is like a gold cup,
From whose wine, the earth became drunk.
For she forced all the nations to drink it,

And this is why they are reeling.

⁸ 'So, Babylon will fall and be broken;
Then the [time to] lament her will come, when they'll say:
*'Bring an ointment to heal all her wounds,
And to see if she can be saved!*

⁹ *'Though we gave her treatment, she couldn't be healed.
So, all should return to their lands,
Since heaven has approached to pass judgment on her...
Before the stars, she has been exposed.*

¹⁰ 'Yes, Jehovah's brought judgment upon her;
So come, let's announce it in Zion...
For, this is the work of Jehovah our God.

¹¹ 'Prepare you bows... fill your quivers;
For the spirit of the king of the Medes,
Has now been aroused by Jehovah,
To bring His rage against Babylon,
And to wipe her away.
Yes, this is the vengeance from God,
For He's getting revenge for His people.

¹² 'Raise the flags on Babylon's walls;
Prepare the watchmen and ready the shields!
For Jehovah's about to do what He said,
Against those who are dwelling in Babylon.

¹³ 'O you who camp between waters,
And you who [put trust in] your treasures;
The limit has finally been reached,
As to what your bowels are able to hold.

¹⁴ 'For Jehovah swore this oath by His mighty arm:
*I'll fill you with men... as many as locusts!
And they'll shout as they're coming against you!*

¹⁵ He's the Mighty One who made the earth...
The One, who in His great wisdom,
Prepared the habitation of man,
And the One who with great understanding,
Stretched out the heavens above it.

¹⁶ With His voice, He sends waters into the skies,
And He brings the clouds from the ends of the earth.
He sends lightning down with the rain,
And from His treasures, He then draws the light.

¹⁷ He has proven all men to be foolish,
[And foolish] is the knowledge of their goldsmiths;
For, they have cast idols and they have carved gods,

All of which are unable to breathe.

¹⁸ So their deeds are wasted and scornful,
And they'll be destroyed when He visits.

¹⁹ Yet this isn't the portion of Jacob...
Their inheritance is the One who shapes all...
His Name is Jehovah of Armies!

²⁰ 'So before Me, lay out your items of war,
And I'll scatter [many] nations before you...
Yes, over many kings, I will raise you,

²¹ And before you, I'll scatter their horses and riders,
As well as their chariots and horsemen.

²² 'I'll scatter before you, husbands and wives...
I'll scatter their elders and children.
I'll scatter before you their young men and virgins...

²³ I'll scatter their shepherds and flocks.

'I'll scatter before you their farmers and farms...
Governors and commanders, I'll scatter.

²⁴ Before your eyes, I will pay back,
Those of Babylon and Chaldea,
For the evils they did against Zion,' says [God].

²⁵ '{Look!} I'm against you, O mount of corruption,
And your iron that corrupts the whole earth.
So I'll stretch My hand out against you;
Then upon you, I will roll rocks,
As I set your mountain on fire!

²⁶ 'No way will your rocks then be carried,
To be used as foundation corner stones...
You'll be wiped away through the ages,' says Jehovah.

²⁷ So, raise the banners throughout the whole earth...
Signal the nations with trumpets;
Then, make them holy against her...
Those from Ararat and the AshKenazi!

'Bring many weapons against her...
Bring horses like locusts, upon her!

²⁸ Drag many nations [to fight] her...
The king of the Medes and the rest of the earth...
Their leaders and all their commanders!

²⁹ Then the earth will be shaken and reel,
By Jehovah's plans against Babylon,
Who's arranged the extinction of Babylon's land,
So that no one will live there again!

³⁰ Babylon's soldiers will fail to wage war...

They'll just sit in their forts as they're losing control.
They'll become like women whose tents are ablaze,
And then, her bars will be broken.

³¹ Those chasing will meet others chasing,
As they pursue the announcers,
Who will meet with those who proclaim,
And make the announcement to Babylon's king,
That his great city was captured,

³² And the last of his moats have been breached...
That his ramparts have been burned down by fire,
And all of his men have surrendered.

³³ For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl) says this:
'The palace of Babylon's king,
Will become a floor to do threshing...
And now is the season for threshing,
Because it's time for the harvest!

³⁴ *'By NebuChadNezzar, Babylon's King,
I was crushed and divided...
He caught up with me in the darkness;
Then, like a beast, he swallowed me down,
And his belly was filled with My good things...*

³⁵ So said those living in Zion.
*In misery and in great trouble,
To Babylon, I was then carried,
And my blood was laid on those Chaldeans.'*

³⁶ 'Because of this,' says Jehovah;
'{Look!} I will judge your opponents,
And send My vengeance to them for the ways,
That they will be punishing you.

'I'll destroy her [rivers] and dry up her springs,

³⁷ And Babylon will be an extinction
– A den for wild beasts and for snakes –
Which won't be lived in again.

³⁸ 'As lions and their cubs are aroused in the heat,
I'll give them a drink that will make them all drunk...
I'll stupefy them and put them to sleep,

³⁹ Which will be a sleep for the ages,
From which they'll never awaken,' says Jehovah.

⁴⁰ 'I'll bring them like lambs for the slaughter...
Like rams that are mixed among [goats].

⁴¹ 'Sheshach will thereafter be captured,
And the earth's boastful ones will be hunted...
For Babylon will no longer be [a great power],

Among the rest of the nations.

⁴² 'May Babylon be covered by the sea...
May she be covered by the roar of its waves...

⁴³ May all her cities meet with destruction,
And may her land becomes dry and unwalked.

'Nothing alive will go there again,
Nor will sons of men ever rest there.

⁴⁴ For, I will take vengeance upon Babylon,
And from her mouth, I'll snatch what she ate.
No more will nations gather with her,
And even her walls will soon fall.

⁴⁵ 'So, come out of her midst, O My people...
Let each one save his own life,
From the anger and rage of Jehovah.

⁴⁶ 'And don't let your hearts be consumed...
Don't fear the reports that are heard in that land.
For in one year, there'll come a report,
And in the next, another will come,
Of misery and sin in the land,
And of one leader ruling another.

⁴⁷ 'Because of this, {Look!} days will come,
When I'll bring My vengeance on Babylon's idols.
Then, all in their land will be shamed,
As in her midst, the slain will be falling.

⁴⁸ 'Heaven and earth will be joyful,
As well as all those who live there.
Her destroyer will come from the north,' says Jehovah.

⁴⁹ And as Babylon murdered the IsraElites,
The slain will fall in Babylon's land.

⁵⁰ 'So flee, O you who've been saved from the sword;
For, you should stay there no longer!
Speak of Jehovah in far-away lands,
And in your hearts, remember JeruSalem!

⁵¹ *'We were shamed when we heard of our scorn,
And in dishonor, we covered our faces;
For, foreigners entered our Most Holy Place...
They entered the [Temple] of Jehovah!*

⁵² 'And because of this, {Look!} days will come,' says Jehovah,
'When I'll take vengeance upon her carved idols,
And the slain will fall in her land.

⁵³ 'So, should Babylon climb up to the heavens,
And fortify her strength in the heights;

I'll still send those who'll destroy her,' says Jehovah.

⁵⁴ From Babylon, you will hear cries,
As destruction comes to the Chaldeans.

⁵⁵ Babylon will be wiped away by the Lord...
With the sounds of waves, He'll destroy her,
And to her voice, He'll bring ruin.

⁵⁶ Misery will come upon Babylon;
For, all her warriors will be captured,
And terror will come to her bowmen...
Yes, this is her payback from God.

⁵⁷ 'The Lord will repay her with what she is due,
And He'll make them all [reel like] drunks...
Her governors, commanders, and all her wise men,'
Says the King, Jehovah the Almighty.

⁵⁸ And thus says Jehovah the Almighty:
'The broad walls of Babylon will fall,
And her gates will fail and be burned;
For the nations and peoples have tired of her pride.'

⁵⁹ [All of these] are the words that the Lord had instructed JeremiAh the Prophet to say to SeraiAh (the son of NeriAh and grandson of MaAseJah) when he went with ZedekiAh (the king of Judah) into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign (SeraiAh was in charge of the gifts that were [brought to the king]). ⁶⁰ Then JeremiAh wrote of all the bad things that were to come upon Babylon in a scroll, including all the rest of these words that were written against Babylon.

⁶¹ For JeremiAh told SeraiAh that when he got to Babylon, he should read all these words to [the people of Babylon], and then say,

⁶² *O Jehovah;*

*It was You who spoke ill of this place,
And You're the One who said You'd destroy it,
So that no one will ever live here again...
Neither man nor beast, through the ages.*

⁶³ 'And then, when you finish reading this scroll, tie it to a rock and toss it into the EuPhrates, ⁶⁴ then say:

*This is how Babylon is going to sink,
And it will not rise again...
She'll vanish, because of the bad things I'll bring.'*

Yes, these were all the words of JeremiAh.

Chapter 52

¹ Well, King ZedekiAh was twenty-one years old when he started his reign, and he ruled from JeruSalem for eleven years. His mother's name was HamuTal, and she was the daughter of JeremiAh of LibNah. ² And like JehoiAkim, the things that he did were wicked before Jehovah. ³ So the wrath of the Lord stayed upon JeruSalem and Judah until

He finally cast them away from His face, and then ZedekiAh rebelled against the king of Babylon.

⁴ It was in the ninth year and tenth month of his reign, on the tenth day of the month, that NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon came against JeruSalem with all his armies. He camped outside the city and built a rampart around it; ⁵ then the city stayed under siege until the eleventh year of King ZedekiAh. ⁶ And by the ninth day of the fourth month, there was famine in the city, so there was no longer any bread for the people of the land.

⁷ Then the city's [walls] were breached and all its warriors fled... they escaped during the night by way of the gate in the middle of the wall and the area around the wall that was next to the king's garden. [They did this] as the Chaldeans were already in and around the city. And then they headed toward the desert.

⁸ Well, the army of the Chaldeans chased after the king, catching up with him on the other side of Jericho, where all his servants had left him. ⁹ So they seized the king and led him to the king of Babylon (who was in RibLah in the land of HaMath at the time), where he spoke to him and then passed judgment on him.

¹⁰ Then the king of Babylon had all the sons of ZedekiAh killed before his eyes, and he killed all the rulers of Judah there in RibLah. ¹¹ And thereafter, he blinded the eyes of ZedekiAh, bound him in shackles, and the Babylonian king took him to Babylon, where he kept him in the mill house until the day that he died.

¹² It was during the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that NabuZarAradan, the chief of the guards (who stands before the king of Babylon) came to JeruSalem, ¹³ and he burned the [Temple] of Jehovah, the king's palace, and all the houses in the city with fire, including all of its mansions. ¹⁴ Then the chief of the guards had the Chaldean armies tear down all of the city walls, ¹⁵ and he removed all the poor people (those who had been left behind in the city) as well as those who had gone over to the king of Babylon, along with everyone else. ¹⁶ However, the chief of the guards did leave some of the poor people behind to serve as vinedressers and farmers.

¹⁷ Then the Chaldeans broke up the columns of brass outside the [Temple] of Jehovah, along with their bases and the brass Sea, and they carried all the brass off to Babylon. ¹⁸ This included the bowls, the meat hooks, and the rest of the brass items that were used to officiate [at the Temple], ¹⁹ as well as the silver things (the snuffers, the oil flasks, the lamp stands, the incense pans, and the cups). Then the chief of the guards took all the things that were made of gold and silver, ²⁰ as well as the two columns, the Sea, and the twelve brass calves that were under the Sea (which King Solomon had made for the [Temple] of Jehovah), [back to Babylon].

²¹ No one could know the weight of all the brass; for the columns each stood thirty-three feet tall, they had a circumference of twenty-two feet, and their walls were four fingers thick. ²² All the moldings were eight feet long (one of them was very fine), and there was a net of pomegranates around the moldings, all of which was made of brass. ²³ There were ninety-six pomegranates on each [molding] and a hundred pomegranates on each of the nets that encircled them.

²⁴ Then the chief of the guards carried off SeraiAh (the High Priest), ZephaniAh (his second in command), and three of the entrance guards. ²⁵ And from the city, he took one

of the eunuchs who was in charge of the warriors, seven of the famous men who stood before the king (all of whom were found in the city), the scribe of the armies, the one who acted as scribe for the people of the land, and sixty men from among the people of the land who were found in the midst of the city. ²⁶ NabuZarAradan (the chief of the guards) took them all away and led them before the king of Babylon in RibLah, ²⁷ and the king of Babylon had them all killed at RibLah (in the land of HaMath). Then the rest of the people of Judah were deported from the land.

²⁸ There were three thousand and twenty-three people whom NebuChadNezzar deported in his seventh year. ²⁹ Then in the eighteenth year of NebuChadNezzar's [reign], he deported eight hundred and thirty-two souls from JeruSalem. ³⁰ And in the twenty-third year of [his reign], the chief of the guards deported seven hundred and forty-five souls from among the Judeans. So all the souls [who were carried away] came to four thousand, six hundred.

³¹ Then in the thirty-seventh year, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month after the relocation of JehoiAchin the king of Judah, EvilMerodach (the king of Babylon) took JehoiAchin (the king of Judah) and led him from the house where he'd been kept under guard (he did this in the first year of his reign). ³² Then he spoke to him kindly and gave him a throne that was higher than all the thrones of the other kings who were there with him in Babylon. ³³ He took him from his prison, provided him with better clothes, and allowed him to eat bread before him for as long as he lived. ³⁴ He was also provided a daily allowance by the king of Babylon until the day that he died.

Lamentations

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A dirge written by JeremiAh after the fall of JeruSalem.*

Chapter 1

¹ After IsraEl was captured and JeruSalem was desolated, Jeremiah sat down and cried, wailing this lamentation over the city:

O how that city, once filled with people,
Now must sit all alone.
Among the nations, she [sits as] a widow...
She is now ruled and [pays] tribute.

² She cried and wept all through the night,
As tears rolled down her cheeks;
For, no one is left to offer her comfort,
Among all those who once loved her.
Those who cared have now left her,
And her enemies, they've now become.

³ Humiliation has come upon Judah,
For, [all of her people] were [taken away],
And she has become just a slave.

Now, she finds no way to rest,
Because she [belongs to] the gentiles.
Yes, all those who chased her have caught her,
And [she lives] among those who oppress her.

⁴ The roads to Zion now mourn,
For, no one comes any longer,
To celebrate her holiday feasts.

All of her gates have been broken,
All of her Priests must now groan,
And all of her virgins are captives;
So inside herself, she is bitter.

⁵ For her head is now those who opposed her,
And to her enemies, [she must submit].

By Jehovah, she has been humbled,
For all the irreverence within her.
So her young were led out as captives,
Before those who had oppressed her.

⁶ The daughters of Zion (her beauty) are gone,
[And others now serve as] their rulers.
As rams without pasture, they left without strength,
In front of those who'd pursued them.

⁷ Then, as she remembers these days of disgrace,
She'll be repulsed [by the thought].

All of her beautiful things [are now gone]
(Those things that she's had since most ancient times).
For her people fell into the hands of oppressors,
And no one came to their aid.
Then her enemies laughed
When they saw them taken away.

⁸ It was because of JeruSalem's sins,
That she was allowed to be battered.
She was humbled by the One who had loved her,
When He saw how indecent she was.
So now, she [just sits there and] moans,
And all she does is reflect.

⁹ Her filth lies there at her feet,
Because she forgot how things would work out.
So, she has now been brought low,
And there's no place where she can find comfort.

[She cries]: 'O Lord, see how I've been shamed;
For to my enemies, I now must submit!'

¹⁰ Those who oppressed her have reached out their hands,
To take her most desirable things.
She watched as the gentiles entered her [Temple]...
Those whom [God] said should never enter,
Among the assembly [of His people].

¹¹ Now, all of her people are groaning,
Because they are searching for bread.
Her desirable things, they've traded for food,
In order to save their own lives.

Please look upon this, O Lord,
For, she has been so disgraced!

¹² All those to whom You were close,
And thereafter chose to reject You,
Will see if there's pain like the pain that I feel.
For, I've been humbled by the One who addressed me...
By the Lord, in the day of His rage.

¹³ To my bones, He has sent fire...
Yes, fire is what He has sent me.
Then He spread out a net for my feet,
To turn me back and make me retreat.
He appointed me to be hidden from view,
And to grieve throughout the whole day.

¹⁴ He was aware of my godless deeds,
For, they were close to my hands...
And then they [crawled] up my neck.
So, all of my strength has now left me,
Since Jehovah's put grief in my hands,
And I am unable to stand.

¹⁵ All my mighty ones have now left me,
Along with [my God], Jehovah.
For the time arrived for His visit,
And to break the best of my men.
So the Lord has trodden the winepress,
Of the virgin daughter of Judah.

¹⁶ It's over such things that I weep...
It's why my eyes are now filled with tears.
For, those who would offer me comfort
(Those who would bring back my life),
[Have all been carried] away.

Why, all of my sons are now gone,
And by my enemies, I have been conquered.

¹⁷ Although Zion has spread out her hands,
There's no one who'll come to console her.

Jehovah gave a warning to Jacob,
That He'd surround them by those who'd attack them.
For JeruSalem was to serve as a woman,
Who was set apart from the unclean...
Though she still had to live in their midst.

¹⁸ Yet, Jehovah has been proven righteous,
For we're the ones who bittered His mouth.

So, hear all you peoples and look at my pain,
Since all my young men and my virgins are gone...
They've all been taken as captives!

¹⁹ I was misled by those whom I loved...
My priests and my elders had failed me!
They just wanted food for themselves,
So they could save their own lives.

²⁰ Behold, O Lord, my painful condition,
For my stomach is very upset,
And my heart is rolling within me!

I have become very bitter;
For the sword has left me no children...
It's as though there is death in my home.

²¹ Listen indeed to my moaning...

For there's no one to offer me comfort.
Since my enemies have heard of my badness,
They now rejoice at the things that You've done.
But upon them, You'll bring a day and a time,
When they will become just like me!

²² Yes, may their evils come upon them...
Glean them as they've gleaned me for my sins!
For, [they are the cause] of my moaning,
And the thing that bothers my heart.

Chapter 2

¹ O how dark was the rage of Jehovah,
When it came to the daughter of Zion.
For He took IsraEl's glory down from the heights,
And threw it down to the ground...
He forgot the stool for His feet,
In the day of His rage.

² [He] didn't hold back, nor did He spare,
Jacob's beautiful things.
In His rage, He destroyed all the forts,
Of the virgin daughters of Judah.
He cut them down to the ground,
And profaned our rulers and king.

³ He broke them to pieces in anger and rage,
Taking all of IsraEl's strength...
He turned His hand from the enemy's face,
And allowed them to set Jacob ablaze,
To consume everything that's around him.

⁴ As an enemy, He stretched tight His bow,
And as an opponent, he stiffened His hand,
To destroy all the things that my eyes had desired.
On the Tents of the daughters of Zion,
He poured out the flames of His rage.

⁵ So, Jehovah became our enemy...
He sunk IsraEl and all its estates.
He also destroyed all its forts...
The strongholds of the daughters of Judah.
Those who humbled us, He multiplied,
And He increased the numbers of those being humbled.

⁶ Like a grapevine, He spread out His Tent,
And His holiday feasts, He corrupted.
He forgot all the things He'd appointed for Zion...
The holiday feasts and the Sabbaths.

He did this, because we'd provoked Him...
Then He threatened our king and our priests in His rage.

⁷ [He] thrust away His own Altar...
His Holy Place, He brushed aside.
So our enemies broke down our walls,
And shouted within the House of the Lord,
As we used to do in our holiday feasts.

⁸ Jehovah made plans to ruin the walls,
Of the virgin daughter of Zion.
First, He stretched out His ruler,
Then His hand sent a trampling upon us,
Which caused us to mourn around all our walls,
Because, the walls were destroyed,
⁹ And the gates had been cut to the ground...
They broke and destroyed the bars for our gates!

So now, her king and her rulers,
Have been scattered among all the nations.
And there is no longer a Law,
Nor do our prophets see visions.

¹⁰ They silently sit on the ground
(The elders of the daughter of Zion),
As they throw dust on their heads...
As they are dressing in sackcloth...
As the heads of JeruSalem's virgins,
Are being pushed to the ground.

¹¹ Then the tears in my eyes started to fail,
Because my heart became so disturbed.
My glory had just been poured on the ground,
Because of the destruction of the daughters,
And of nursing mothers with babies,
There in our city square.

¹² They demanded grain and wine from the mothers,
When they were as weak as the wounded.
Then, in those squares, they poured out the lives,
[Of the babies] that nursed at their breasts.

¹³ And now, what more can I say,
O virgin daughter of JeruSalem...
To what can you be compared?
Who can come and bring you salvation,
O virgin daughter of Zion?
Since the cup of destruction was widened for you;
Who can now bring you healing?

¹⁴ Your prophets saw all of your folly,

But, they refused to uncover your sins,
And save you from this captive condition.
Yet, they were concerned over your foolish ways,
And they saw that you had to be purged!

¹⁵ Now, people clap hands as they're passing,
And shake their heads as they whistle,
Over JeruSalem's daughter.

They ask:

'Isn't she the city that was called glory's crown...
The place of joy of the whole earth?'

¹⁶ Your enemies opened their mouths,
Then they whistled, as they ground their teeth.
They said, 'We have swallowed her down,
And this is the day that we planned it...
We found it and [then made it happen]!'

¹⁷ So, Jehovah did just as He planned...
He finished what He said must be done...
The things that He said [He would do], long ago.
So He didn't spare, He demolished!
He brought your enemies joy over you,
And raised the horns of those who attacked you!

¹⁸ Before Jehovah, they yelled out,
'Let us tear down Zion's walls,
So they will stream tears day and night!
Don't allow them the time to get sober,
Or to let their eyes become still!'

¹⁹ So, during the night, awaken and think...
At the start of each watch, pour out your hearts,
Before the face of Jehovah!
Raise your hands up before Him,
On behalf of the starving children,
That are found on every street corner!

²⁰ Behold, O Lord... see what You've gleaned!
Should women eat the fruit of their bellies...
Should the babies be murdered as they're nursing on breasts...
Will you kill the priests and the prophets,
Inside the Holy Place of Jehovah?

²¹ Young boys go to bed in the streets,
Along with the old men and virgins.
My young men were all taken captive...
And then killed by famine and swords.
Yes, on the day of Your rage,
You slashed and You have spared none.

²² As a festival day (as no other day),
You called to those who were living around us.
Then, from Your rage, none were saved...
There were none left behind...
My enemies were filled, and You won.

Chapter 3

¹ I am a man who is helpless,
For the rod of His rage has been laid upon me.

² He took me, then led me away,
Into the darkness (not into the light).

³ Throughout the rest of my days,
Against me, He's turned His hand.

⁴ My flesh and my skin, He's made old,
And He has broken my bones.

⁵ Against me, He's built [a wall],
And encircled my head with great trouble.

⁶ Inside a dark place, He has put me,
As though I were dead through the ages.

⁷ Against me, He has built walls,
Through which I cannot escape...
And He's weighed me down with brass chains.

⁸ Although I cry out and yell,
He has shut out my prayers...

⁹ He's blocked all my roads and my ways!

¹⁰ He's a bear that is lying in wait,
And a lion that's lurking, unseen.

¹¹ When I rebelled, He chased me down,
And caused me to no longer be...
He established me to be wiped away.

¹² He has stretched tight His bow,
And set me on a stone as His target.

¹³ He shot poison arrows into my kidneys,

¹⁴ And He made me a reason for laughter...
A sacred hymn throughout the whole day.

¹⁵ With bitterness, He has now filled me,
And bile, He gave me to drink.

¹⁶ With a small rock, He knocked out my teeth,
And He gave me ashes to eat.

¹⁷ He has pushed away peace from my life,
And made me forget all the good things I had.

¹⁸ So I said that my victory had perished,
As had my hope in Jehovah.

¹⁹ But, this is what I remembered:
Despite the state I was in
(Despite my persecution, bitterness, and bile)...
²⁰ I will not be forgotten...
Yes, my life will continue!
²¹ This is [the thought] that I've kept in my heart,
And the reason why I keep on waiting.

²² For the mercies of [God] never end,
And His compassions will never fail.
²³ Each morning, they are renewed,
And on Him, we always can rely.

²⁴ 'The portion that's mine is Jehovah,' said my soul.
'And because of this, I'll keep waiting.
²⁵ For Jehovah is good to all those who'll wait...
And with their whole souls, search for Him.

²⁶ So it's good [for us all] to be still,
And await Jehovah's salvation.
²⁷ And it's also good for a man,
To bear his yoke from his youth.

²⁸ He should sit all alone,
And quietly carry his load;
²⁹ Then, put his mouth to the dust,
And believe that there is still hope.

³⁰ He'll turn the other cheek when they slap him,
And he will accept all their scorn.
³¹ For, [in his heart], he'll know that Jehovah,
Won't push [him] away through the ages.
³² Since, in His abundance of mercy,
He shows pity to all who are humble.

³³ Harsh replies won't come from His heart,
When He's teaching the sons of men to be humble.
³⁴ And now He has humbled under His feet,
All those who've been carried away from this land.

³⁵ From before His face in the heights,
He's removed the decisions of men.
³⁶ For Jehovah never said that He'd bring,
Condemnation upon all mankind.
³⁷ Why, who could say such a thing...
Yes, who could bring it about,
Without Jehovah saying it's so?

³⁸ From out of His mouth in the heights,
Can come what's good or what's bad.
³⁹ So, why do living men grumble,

At others concerning their sins?

⁴⁰ For before Him, our ways are stretched and examined,
To see how we can return to the Lord.

⁴¹ Therefore, we should lift our hearts with our hands,
Toward the Most High in heaven.

⁴² It's because we're irreverent sinners,
Who could not be forgiven,

⁴³ That we have been wrapped in His rage.

It's because we chose to reject Him,
That He decided to send us away...

This is why He destroyed us and not chosen to spare us.

⁴⁴ So He wrapped Himself in a cloud,
And closed His eyes to our prayers...

⁴⁵ Yes, this is why He pushed us away.

⁴⁶ So against us, our enemies [shouted],

⁴⁷ Which made us be fearful and stunned...
And then, our destruction arrived.

⁴⁸ So, tears have poured from my eyes,
For the destruction of the daughter of my people.

⁴⁹ I'll [drink the tears] from my eyes,
And not hold back or be quiet,

⁵⁰ Until the time that I can look through,
And see Jehovah in the heavens.

⁵¹ Now my eyes look back on my life in great rage,
For [what's happened to] the daughters of my city.

⁵² As though we were sparrows, our enemies hunted,

⁵³ And now, they have ended my life...

They tossed me into a grave,
And covered it up with a stone.

⁵⁴ Then, as water dripped down on my head, I said:
'I have been thrown away.'

⁵⁵ So I called on Your Name, O Jehovah,
From out of the lowest of pits.

⁵⁶ I said, '[Please] don't cover Your ears...
Hear my voice and the things that I beg.'

⁵⁷ Then You came to my aid in the day that I called,
And told me, 'Don't be afraid!'

⁵⁸ O Lord, You have pleaded my case,
And then, You ransomed my soul.

⁵⁹ You've seen the things that they've done, O Lord,
So, judge them on my behalf.

⁶⁰ You've beheld their vengeance upon me,

And the plans that they've plotted against me.
⁶¹ You listened to their scornful words,
And saw the [things that they did]...
⁶² You heard the lips of those rising against me,
And You knew what they thought all day long.
⁶³ For, when they sit down and when they arise,
You can see it all through their eyes!
⁶⁴ O Lord;
Will You will pay them back with what they deserve,
According to the works of their hands?
⁶⁵ Curse them for all the trouble they've caused;
⁶⁶ Then pursue them in rage and remove them,
From everywhere under the heavens, O Lord.

Chapter 4

¹ O how the gold's lost its luster,
And how the silver's been tarnished;
For the [Temple's] holy stones have been tossed in the streets.
² Because the sons of Zion esteemed,
And gained all their courage from gold,
They came to be looked on as earthenware pots...
As works of the hands of a potter.
³ Then, nursing cubs were stripped from the breasts,
By those who'd become like the Dragon,
And the daughters of my people were abandoned,
Like sparrows that are lost in the desert.
⁴ Now the tongues of the nursing, stick to the breasts,
So that their thirst can be quenched.
And though the infants cry out for bread,
It has all been snatched from their mouths.
⁵ So from those who once ate the best things,
All been taken away;
And those who were raised wearing purple,
Are found in the streets embracing manure.
⁶ For, the lawless ways of the daughters of my people,
Proved to be greater than Sodom...
Yes, that place which was once wiped away,
And which no one tried to prevent.
⁷ Her Nazarites were [brighter] than snow...
Radiant and whiter than milk...
Yes, even better than sapphires!
⁸ But now, their appearance is darker than soot,
And they can't be recognized in the streets.

For their skin is now stuck to their bones,
And they have dried up like lumber.

⁹ It was better for those who were killed by the sword,
Than for those who've been pierced by starvation...
Those in want of the produce of fields.

¹⁰ And the hands of women [who were known for their] pity,
Then boiled their own children as food...
Amid the destruction of the daughters of my people,
¹¹ Jehovah completed His rage.

Then, as He poured out the wrath of His rage,
He lit a fire throughout Zion,
Which burned her down to her foundations.

¹² To the kings of the earth who lived in that time,
It was hard to believe...
That an enemy could enter JeruSalem's gates,
And bring so much devastation.

¹³ It came, because of the sins of her prophets,
As well as the failures of priests,
And the shedding of innocent blood in her midst.

¹⁴ Then, in her streets, her watchmen were stunned;
For, they became [spattered] with blood...
It was something they couldn't avoid,
Since the clothes that they wore had to touch it.

¹⁵ So people started shouting, 'Get away... get away...
Because you're all now unclean!
Get away... get away... do not touch them!'

Then, after we fled and wandered about,
The gentiles said, 'You can't stay here!'
Yes, the nations shouted at us:
'There's no way that we want you to come here!'

¹⁶ Though our portion was the person of [God],
He no longer kept watch over us,
For the people had shown no respect
To their elders or Priests.

¹⁷ So our eyes had started to fail,
As we were searching for aid...
They just watched us and offered no help...
A nation with no one to save them.

¹⁸ Now, stay away from our city squares,
For, they are hunting our young...
Our time has approached and our days are fulfilled,
So our end is now close at hand!

¹⁹ Those who chased us were even more agile,
Than eagles [that attack from] the mountains...
They just sat there and waited for us,
From perches high over the desert.

²⁰ Jehovah's anointed (our life's breath and lord)
Has also been seized and carried away,
Because we became so corrupt...
Yes, this one about whom we once said:
'In his shadow, we'll dwell among nations.'

²¹ So rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom...
The one who in Uz has resided!
Yet you'll also go into the cup of the Lord;
Where, after you're drunk, you'll be poured.'

²² O great daughter of Zion;
Your lawless acts have now reached their end,
And [God] won't be in the places you'll go.

And you, O daughter of Edom;
He'll also examine your lawless ways,
And reveal your unrighteous deeds.

Chapter 5

¹ O Jehovah; remember what has happened to us!
Look down and see how we have been scorned!

² Our inheritance has been [given] to strangers,
And our houses have been offered to gentiles.

³ Since we don't have fathers, we're orphans,
And all of our mothers are widows.

⁴ So now, we must pay for our water,
And we must barter for wood.

⁵ Because we were closely pursued,
We were tired and we couldn't find rest.

⁶ Then to Egypt, we held out our hands,
And also to Assyria's bounty.

⁷ Our fathers had sinned and no longer exist...
They've paid the cost of breaking Your Law.

⁸ As the result, we're now slaves,
And we have no one to redeem us.

⁹ We carry bread at the risk of our lives,
Before the swords in the desert.

¹⁰ Our skins now dark, as though oven baked,
And they have shriveled from famine.

¹¹ They've [raped] the women of Zion,
And the virgins in the cities of Judah.

¹² Rulers were hung by their hands,
And the elders couldn't be recognized.

¹³ The best men have taken to weeping;
And from carrying wood, the young men are weak.

¹⁴ Our elders no longer sit at our gates,
And our [singers] no longer sing songs.

¹⁵ So, what once brought joy and dance to our hearts,
Has now been turned into dirges.

¹⁶ It is because of our sins,
That the crowns on our heads reflect woe.

¹⁷ The grief in our hearts is more grievous,
And our eyes have become even darker.

¹⁸ Mount Zion has now been destroyed,
And it looks like foxes ran through it.

¹⁹ But You, O Jehovah, have lived through the ages...
Through generations of generations, Your throne has remained.

²⁰ Why did You forget to send victory?
Will You forsake us through the rest of our days?

²¹ Turn back to us, O Jehovah,
Then, when we return, we'll make our days new,
The same as they were long ago!

²² We were pushed away and rejected by You;
Because, we provoked You to rage.

Ezekiel

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
Written by Ezekiel over a period starting from around 641-BCE to 14 years after the destruction of JeruSalem.*

Chapter 1

¹ It was during the thirtieth year, in the fourth month and on the fifth day of the month, as I was a captive by the Chobar River, that the heavens opened up and I beheld visions [from] God. ² This was five years and five months after King JehoiAchin had been taken off into captivity.

³ The Word of Jehovah came to me (Ezekiel, the son of Buzi), a Priest in the land of the Chaldean (along the Chobar river), and I received it from the hand of the Lord. ⁴ For I looked and I saw a wind that could lift iron coming from the north, along with a huge cloud that had bright lights all around it and flashes of lightning. I also had a vision of a bright bronze casting in the middle of a fire. ⁵ Then there in its midst was something that looked like four animals. But in this vision, they also looked like men. ⁶ Each had four faces and four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight, there were feathers on their feet, there were sparks like flashes of brass, and they had very fine wings.

⁸ Beneath each of their four wings was a man's hand, and they had wings on each of their four parts. So they each had four faces and four wings, ⁹ and they traveled opposite to [the direction] they were facing. Also, their wings didn't turn as they moved.

¹⁰ One of the faces was like that of a man; then on the right, each of the four had the face of a lion, on the left there was the face of a calf, and there was the face of an eagle on [the back sides of] each of the four.

¹¹ [Two of] their wings stretched out high above the other [two] wings and they were yoked to each other, while their lower two wings were used to cover their bodies. ¹² They followed each other [in a line], one in front of the other, and wherever [God's] Breath led them they went, not turning aside.

¹³ Also, there among the animals, I had a vision of burning coals that looked like lamps that were spinning there in their midst. The flames were very bright, and lightning shot from the flames. ¹⁴ Also, the animals were moving up and back like lightning.

¹⁵ Then I looked and I saw wheels on the ground that were next to each of the four animals, ¹⁶ and the wheels [sparkled] like peridots. There were what appeared to be four wheels within each wheel, and they worked as though there were wheels within wheels. ¹⁷ Each [wheel] moved in the direction that [the animals] faced, and they [moved in unison]... ¹⁸ their rims were tall and awesome! Then I looked again and I noticed that their back sides were full of eyes that went all around each of the four wheels.

¹⁹ As the animals moved, the wheels moved next to them. And when the animals lifted up from the ground, the wheels went up also, ²⁰ along with a cloud that went wherever [God's] Breath led it. ²¹ The animals and the wheels moved up along with [the cloud], because the breath of life was in the wheels. ²¹ Wherever [the animals] traveled, the wheels went along. For when they stood still, the wheels stood still, but when they rose above the ground, the wheels went up with them, because the breath of life was in the

wheels.

²² Above the heads of the animals was what looked like an expanse of ice that was stretched out over the tops of their wings. ²³ And under this expanse, their wings were stretched out and flapping side by side, as the other two [wings] covered their bodies.

²⁴ The sound that I heard from the movement of their wings as they traveled was like the sound of a lot of rushing water and the sound of someone very important whenever they moved. However, it was like the sound of [many] words being spoken in a camp whenever the animals stood still and rested their wings.

²⁵ {Look!} There was also a sound that came from far above. ²⁶ In the vision [that I had]; above their heads there was what looked like huge a sapphire stone, and sitting above it was a throne upon which what appeared to be a man from the heavens was sitting. ²⁷ I saw what looked like molten bronze that was filled with fire around and above His loins; and beneath that, I just saw fire and brightness all around Him. ²⁸ He was like a rainbow that forms in the clouds on a rainy day, and there was just brightness all around Him. Why, this was a vision of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah! And when I saw this, I fell to my face.

Then I heard a voice speaking [to me].

Chapter 2

¹ He said to me:

'Son of man; stand up on your feet,
And then, I will address you!'

² And at that, His Spirit came over me... it picked me up and lifted me, standing me up on my feet. Then I heard Him speaking to me. ³ He said,

'O son of man;
To the sons of IsraEl, I'm sending you...
To those who've rebelled against Me.
For, they've been rebelling against Me,
Down to this very day...
They and their fathers have [ignored Me].

⁴ 'They're a harsh and hard-hearted people,
And they're the ones to whom you'll be sent.
So, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

⁵ *You should listen in terror;*
For, you are a house in rebellion.
And then they will finally know,
That you've been a Prophet among them.

⁶ 'And you, O son of man, should not be afraid,
Or be upset by their faces.
For, they will get heated up,
Then they will rise up against you,
And they will have you surrounded.

'Among these scorpions, you'll have to live,

But don't fear the things that they'll say to your face,
For they are a house in rebellion.

⁷ 'You must tell them My words, so they'll hear them and fear;
For they are a house in rebellion.

⁸ 'Now you, O son of man, must pay close attention,
To the One who'll be speaking to you...
Don't rebel, like that house in rebellion!

'Now, open your mouth very wide,
And eat this thing that I'm handing to you!'

⁹ So I looked and then I saw a hand that was reaching out toward me; and in it there was a rolled up scroll. ¹⁰ Then He unrolled it before me... and written on both the front and back sides was a lamentation and a dirge.

Chapter 3

¹ Then He said to me:
'O son of man; eat all you [see]...
First, you must eat this scroll,
And then tell IsraEl's sons [what it says]!'

² So He opened my mouth and fed me the scroll. ³ Then He said to me:
'O son of man;
As I put this scroll in your mouth,
Your belly will be filled with this thing,
That I am feeding to you.'

So I ate it and found it to be as sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴ Then He said to me:
'O son of man;
Now, go to the house of IsraEl,
And tell them all that I'll say!

⁵ 'You won't have to speak to those with thick lips,
Or to those with tongues that are foreign...
You're being sent to the house of IsraEl.

⁶ 'To other peoples, you're not being sent...
To those who speak words that you won't understand,
Or to those who have foreign, thick tongues
(Those who won't know what you're saying),
But to those who will understand you.

⁷ 'Yet, the house of IsraEl will not listen,
To the things that I'll tell you to say...
They'll not agree to listen to Me,
Since they are a hard-hearted people,
And all they do is talk back.

⁸ 'Now look;

Against their faces, I've made your face strong,
And your conquest is greater than theirs...
It will be harder than rock.

⁹ 'So don't fear [when you're standing] before them...
Before them, don't be terrified,
For theirs is a house in rebellion.'

¹⁰ And He said to me:
'O son of man;
Take My words into your heart...
Yes, listen to them with your ears.
¹¹ Then, tell these captive sons of your people,
That The Lord Jehovah has spoken,
And surely they'll listen and yield.'

¹² Well after that, [His] Spirit stood me erect, and from behind me I heard a rumbling
sound that spoke to me, saying:
'Praise the glory of Jehovah,
Which has come [to you] from His realm!'

¹³ Then I heard the sound of the flapping of the wings of the animals (because [the wings]
were touching each other), as well as the sounds of the wheels that were moving next to
them with a great rumbling. ¹⁴ And thereafter, [God's] Breath lifted me up and carried me
away... so my spirit was being lifted and motivated by the hand of Jehovah that had
come over me, and this made me extremely powerful!

¹⁵ Then, while I was in this elevated [condition], I traveled among the captives who live
next to the Chobar River, and I stayed there for seven days. ¹⁶ Then at the end of the seven
days, the Word of the Lord came to me and said this:

¹⁷ 'O son of man;
Over the house of IsraEl,
I have made you the watchman.
So, you will hear the words from My mouth,
And then, you must bring them My warnings.

¹⁸ 'For I'm saying that the lawless will die!
And you will also die with them,
If you fail to give them My orders.

'Give the warning to those lawless ones,
And tell them that they will survive,
If they'll turn from their unrighteous ways!
But, if they should choose to stay lawless,
They will die for their sins,
And I won't require their blood from your hands.

¹⁹ 'If you give My Word to the lawless,
And they refuse to turn from their evil ways;
They will die in their sins,
But, I will still rescue you.

²⁰ 'If a righteous man should turn from right ways,
And start doing things that are evil;
I'll torment his face 'til he dies.
But, if you've failed to bring him My Word,
And this is what caused him to die,
So his righteous deeds are forgotten;
I'll require his blood from your hands.

²¹ 'But if you give [My] Word to the righteous,
And tell them that they should not sin...
And they don't sin because they've been warned,
Which results in their being saved;
You will have saved your own life.'

²² Then the hand of the Lord came upon me and told me:
'Now arise and go out to the plains;
For there, I will tell you much more!'

²³ So I got up and went out to the plains; and {Look!} there was the glory of Jehovah – the
glory that I had seen by the Chobar River – and I fell to my face. ²⁴ Then [God's] Breath
came over me and stood me up on my feet... it spoke to me and said:

'Go home and lock yourself inside your house;

²⁵ {Look!} For you, O son of man, are appointed to be bound...

Yes, they will come here and then tie you up,
And no way will you set yourself free.

²⁶ 'They'll also wrap your tongue in your throat,
So you'll be unable to speak.
And you'll not be a man who can scold them;
For they are a house in rebellion.

²⁷ 'So My voice will be speaking through you...
I will open your mouth and you'll tell them,
That this was said by Jehovah:
'*All choosing to hear, should now listen;
But, those who don't wish to make any change,
Will continue to resist My persuasion;
For this is a house in rebellion!*

Chapter 4

¹ 'And you, O son of man;
Take a brick for yourself,
Then set it in front of your face.

'Draw a map of JeruSalem upon it,
² Then surround it with a circle of forts.
Also draw a siege mound and camps,
And encircle the city with weapons.

³ 'Then, get an iron frying pan,

And set it as a wall between you and the city,
And prepare your face to oppose it...
Prepare for a siege, then attack...
This will serve as the sign to IsraEl's sons!

⁴ 'Then, go to sleep on your left side,
And lay the sins of the house of IsraEl upon you...
You must bear their unrighteous ways,
For the number of days that you sleep [on that side].

⁵ 'I've appointed two things, which you must do,
Concerning their unrighteous deeds:

· 'The unrighteous ways of IsraEl's house,
Must be born upon you,
For three hundred and ninety [full] days.

· ⁶ 'After that, you must sleep on your right side,
For the unrighteous ways of the house of Judah.
You must do this for forty more days...
A day for each year, is what I've established!

⁷ 'And as for the siege on JeruSalem;
Prepare your face and stiffen your arm,
For against [that city], you must then prophesy.

⁸ '{Look!} I've appointed their bondage upon you...
So don't turn from one side to the other,
Until the days of your siege are fulfilled.

⁹ 'Take wheat, barley, and beans for yourself,
As well as wild oats, lentils, and millet.
You must put them into an earthenware pot,
And use them to bake loaves of bread.

'Make enough for the number of days
(All the three hundred and ninety),
That you must sleep on your side.

¹⁰ And the weight of the food you'll consume,
Will be just ten ounces a day,
Which you may eat at various times.

¹¹ 'You must also measure the water you'll drink...
You may drink just ten ounces from time to time.

¹² 'And bake the barley cakes that you'll eat,
Over human manure,
Which you must hide in the coals,
There before [everyone's] eyes.'

¹³ And Jehovah (the God of IsraEl) said:
'For, this is the type of uncleanness,
That the sons of IsraEl will eat,

Among the nations where they will be thrown.'

¹⁴ And I said: 'Absolutely not, O Lord God of IsraEl! For my soul has never been defiled or made unclean by decaying flesh, nor have I eaten wild animals from [the day] I was born until now... nothing unclean has ever entered my mouth!'

¹⁵ So He said to me:
'Then, rather than using human manure,
I'll allow you to use cattle dung...
You can bake your loaves over it.'

¹⁶ And He said to me:
'O son of man;
{Look!} I'll break JeruSalem's trust in its bread;
For they'll have to weigh out their bread,
And ration the water they drink 'til it's gone.

¹⁷ 'Since there won't be enough bread or water,
Each man [will steal] from his brother.
And they'll melt in their unrighteous ways.'

Chapter 5

¹ 'And you, O son of man;
Go and buy a sharp blade
(A razor that's used by a barber),
And shave your head and your beard.

'Then, [put the hair on] a scale,
And divide it up by its weight.

² A fourth must be used to kindle a fire,
Which you must burn in the midst of the city,
[To show] the number of days of its siege...
Then, toss the next quarter into the fire.

'Cut the third quarter with the knife,
And scatter it throughout [the city].
Then, toss the last quarter into the wind;
For I'll empty them out with the sword.

³ 'And thereafter, take what little is left,
And put it into a bag...

⁴ Then from these, take more [of the hairs],
And toss them into the fire.
Then as they burn, say this to the house of IsraEl:

⁵ *'The Lord says that this is JeruSalem,
Which I'll place amid many nations,
So that they will have her surrounded.*

⁶ 'Then, speak of My righteous decisions...
Yes, speak to this lawless nation,
And to the lawless ones living around them.

For they've pushed away My righteous ways,
And they have not followed My Laws.

⁷ *'It's because of this, says Jehovah,
'That lawlessness will now come to you,
From the nations that have you surrounded.*

*'For, you haven't followed My Laws,
Nor have you observed My righteous decrees ...
You've not even come up to the standards,
Of the nations that are living around you!*

⁸ *'So because of this, says Jehovah;
{Look!} I am now standing against you,
And I'll bring My judgments upon you,
There before all those nations!*

⁹ *'I will do [bad] things among you,
That have never happened before,
Nor will they be done in the future,
For the disgusting things that you're doing!*

¹⁰ *'For, fathers will eat their own children;
Children will be eat their own fathers;
And the rest will be scattered to the [four] winds ...
For I'm bring My righteous decisions on you!*

¹¹ *'As I live, says Jehovah ...
Because you've dirtied My Holy Things,
With all that's disgusting and loathsome,
I will push you away ...
My eyes won't spare or show mercy!*

¹² *'So a fourth will be consumed by the plague;
A fourth will be finished by famine;
A fourth will be scattered to the [four] winds;
And a fourth will fall by the broadsword ...
Yes, you will all be surrounded,
And the sword will be emptied upon you.*

¹³ *'But, after My anger and rage is complete,
I'll return and offer you comfort ...
And you'll know that the reason this happened,
Is because I (Jehovah) have spoken,
And in My zeal, I have vented My rage.*

¹⁴ *'I'll turn you and your daughters into waterless lands,
In the presence of all who pass by.*

¹⁵ *You'll be squeezed out and scoffed at by nations,
When I bring My anger and judgments on you,
As well as My vengeance and rage.
For, I (Jehovah) have spoken.*

¹⁶ *'When I send the arrows of famine to you,
And you come to be in great need,
I'll send [the nations] to finish you off.
I'll also bring famine upon you,
And break your reliance on bread.*

¹⁷ *'I'll send out famine against you,
As well as ferocious wild beasts!
With plagues, you will also be punished,
And blood will then flow among you;
For upon you, I'm bringing the sword.
Yes, I (Jehovah) have spoken!'*

Chapter 6

¹ And the Word of Jehovah came to me saying,
² 'O son of man;
Turn your face toward IsraEl's hills,
And against them, now prophesy!

³ 'Speak to IsraEl's mountains,
And tell them to hear the Word of the Lord!
Yes, hear what He has decreed,
To the mountains, hills, valleys, and forests:

*'{Look!} Against you, I'm bringing the broadsword,
And it will destroy your high places.*

⁴ *For, I will break all your altars;
Your [incense stands], I'll tear down;
And before their idols, I'll leave all your slain.*

*'The bodies of IsraEl's sons,
Will be offered in front of their idols;
⁵ And then, on their altars, I'll scatter their bones.*

⁶ *'All the homes in your towns will be empty,
Your high places will be wiped away;
And your altars will all be destroyed.*

*'Your idols will no longer be;
Your incense stands will be lifted away;
And your works will all be erased.*

⁷ *Then, as the slain are falling among you,
You'll know that I am Jehovah.*

⁸ *'Then those who've escaped from the broadsword,
Will be scattered among all the nations.*

⁹ *And those who escape from the nations,
Where they will be taken as captives,
Will start thinking of Me once again.*

'I vow this against the hearts of all those,

*Who're committed adultery against Me,
And who've done all these many bad things.*

*'They will slap their own faces,
Over of the vile things they've done.*

*¹⁰ Then they'll know that I am Jehovah,
And that this is why I sent them the warning,
That I'd bring such evil upon them.'*

¹¹ The Lord said:

*'Clap your hands... yes, stamp your feet and then say,
This is what they deserve,
For all of these disgusting things
That the house of IsraEl has done.
Yes, may they fall by the broadsword,
As well as by famine and plague!*

¹² 'Then, those far away will die by the plague;
Those who are near will fall by the sword;
And those who remain after the siege,
Will be finished off by the famine,
As I wear out My anger against them.

¹³ 'And you'll know that I am Jehovah,
When among your idols, you'll see all your slain...
Before your altars upon the high hills,
And under each shade tree and bush,
Where you have burned incense before them.

¹⁴ 'For against such ones, I'll stretch out My hand,
And their homes and lands, I'll bring to extinction...
I'll make them like figs that have dried in the desert;
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.'

Chapter 7

¹ Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said, ² 'And to you, O son of man; Jehovah says this about IsraEl:

*'To the four wings of the land,
The end has finally come.*

*³ Yes, the end has arrived,
For upon them, I'm bringing My rage.*

*'I'm the One who is standing against them,
And I'll punish them for all of their [evil] ways...
For their disgusting deeds, I'll hold them to blame,
⁴ And my eyes won't spare or show mercy!*

*'Because they have been so disgusting,
I'll no longer be so forgiving,
Of the bad being done in their midst...*

Then they'll know that I am Jehovah!

⁵ 'Jehovah said:

*Upon all of those who are evil,
{Look!} Evil things are now here at hand.*

⁶ *The end has reached its fulfillment,
And their punishment has been awakened.*

⁷ *{Look!} The circle of the wreath has fallen on them
(Those who live in the land),
And the time has finally arrived...
A day of tumult and distress.*

⁸ *'For now, I'll pour out My rage,
And finish My anger against them.
They'll be judged for the things that they've done,
And I'll hold all their bad deeds against them.*

⁹ *'My eyes won't spare or show mercy;
I'll hold them to blame for their ways;
And for the disgusting things done in their midst.
And then they'll know that it's Me...
I'm the One who is knocking them down!*

¹⁰ *{Look!} The day of the Lord has arrived,
And his rod has [finally] blossomed.*

¹¹ *The time to injure has come,
Which will break the resolve of the lawless,
And nothing at all will remain...
No wealth and nothing of value.*

¹² *'Look! The time has finally come...
Today is truly the day!
So, those who buy should no longer rejoice,
And those who sell shouldn't wail;
For [God's] wrath will be in charge these things.*

¹³ *'Now, the one who buys will not return
What he bought to the person who sold it...
Because, neither one will survive.*

*'This vision is for all of you
(As many as now live in this place),
And it will not be turned back.
Yet, the eyes of these people won't see,
[The things that are coming into] their lives.*

¹⁴ *'So, blow the trumpets and judge what is coming...
Yet, no one's preparing for war,
As My wrath is coming upon all her crowds!*

¹⁵ *'When the sword arrives from the outside,*

There'll be famine and plagues on the inside.
And those who carry their swords to the fields,
Will thereafter die [in those fields],
While there's famine and plague in their cities.

¹⁶ 'Then, those who try to escape,
Will sit on the mountains like pigeons and know,
Their destruction has come because of their evil.

¹⁷ 'All their hands will be weak,
And all their loins will be wet.

¹⁸ So around themselves, they'll wrap sack cloth,
And they'll be covered by shock...
Upon every face there'll be shame,
And every head will be bald.

¹⁹ 'They'll toss their silver into the squares,
And their gold won't have any value;
For their silver and gold will not save them,
In the day of the wrath of Jehovah.

'Then their lives won't find satisfaction,
Nor will their bellies be filled,
Since the torment for their sins has arrived.

²⁰ 'Of their [silver and gold], they were proud,
So they used it to create their foul idols.
And for this, I've handed them over to filth.

²¹ 'Yes, I will hand them to strangers,
Who will then rip them to pieces.
To the pests of the earth, I will give them,
Who, as their spoils, will profane them.

²² 'From them, I've now turned My face,
And to those whom I once had watched over,
Sudden ruin will come.
The attack will come when it isn't expected...
And then, they will all be profaned.

²³ 'Yes, a befouling will come,
To a land that is filled with judgments of blood.
For with all of their lawless ways,
This city is filled to the brim!

'So the evil ways of the nations,
I am now bring upon them,
And [gentiles] will inherit their homes.

²⁴ 'I will turn away all their neighing,
About how great they've become,
And the things they hold holy will then be defiled.

²⁵ 'The time to repay will arrive,
And those who seek peace will not find it.

²⁶ For there will come woe upon woe,
As message after message arrives.

'From their prophets, they'll search for a vision;
But the law of their Priests will be lost,
As will the counsel of the king's elders.

²⁷ 'When their rulers come to extinction,
The peoples' hands will go limp.
Then I'll do to them the same as they did,
And punish them with their own judgments,
So they'll know that I am Jehovah.'

Chapter 8

¹ It was during the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, while I was sitting in my house and all the elders of Judah were sitting before me, that the hand of Jehovah came upon me. ² For I looked and I saw what appeared to be a man; but from his loins down, he looked like fire, and from his loins up, he looked as bright as molten bronze. ³ Then he stretched out what appeared to be a hand, and he lifted me by the decorative fringes on my clothes. And in spirit, he lifted me between the ground and the sky, and he carried me to JeruSalem. In this vision from God, I was looking north toward the [city] gate, and there [I saw] a monument to [the god], *The Consumer*.

⁴ And in this vision; {Look!} there in the plains, I saw the glory of Jehovah the God of IsraEl. ⁵ And He said to me: 'O son of man; Now raise your eyes and look toward the north!'

So I raised my eyes toward the north and saw that just north of the gate and on the east side of the Altar, there was the idol of Jealousy standing at the entrance [to the city]. ⁶ And He said to me:

'O son of man;
Do you see these things that they're doing...
These lawless deeds of the house of IsraEl,
To push Me away from My Holy Place?
Yet you'll see even worse and more lawless deeds!'

⁷ So then He carried me to the threshold of the [Temple] courtyard, and there {Look!} I saw an opening in the wall. ⁸ Then He said to me: 'O son of man; now, dig [a hole] into the wall!'

So I dug [a hole] in the wall, and there {Look!} I found a door. ⁹ And He said to me: 'Now, enter and see all the evil...
All the lawless things being done here!'

¹⁰ So I went inside and {Look!} I saw depictions of all sorts of crawling things, [unclean] animals, and all the idols of the house of IsraEl... foolish and disgusting things that had been painted on the walls. ¹¹ Then I saw seventy men among the elders of the house of IsraEl, with JaAzaniAh (the son of ShaPhan) standing in front of them, and each man was

holding a smoking incense pan in his hands.

¹² And He said to me:

'O son of man;
Look at what IsraEl's elders are doing,
In the darkness of these hidden rooms...
They're saying that Jehovah is gone from this land!'

¹³ And then He said: 'But [I'll show you] even greater and more lawless things.'

¹⁴ So He carried me up to the threshold of the Gate of the [Temple] of Jehovah (the one that faces north), and there I saw women sitting and wailing for TamMuz. ¹⁵ And He said to me:

'O son of man;
Although that you've seen all of this,
You'll see even worse things being done here.'

¹⁶ So He carried me into the inner courtyard of the [Temple] of Jehovah, up to the threshold of the House of the Lord; and there between the columned porch and the Altar I saw about twenty-five men who were facing east with their backsides to the Temple of Jehovah... they were bowing to the sun in the east!

¹⁷ Then He asked me:

'Are these lawless deeds that the house of Judah is doing,
Really of no great concern?
Why, they've filled the whole earth with their lawless ways...
They've turned from Me and provoked Me to rage.

'And look!

They're holding out branches of grapevines,
As though they are sneering at Me!

¹⁸ 'So I'll deal with them in My rage,
And My eyes will no longer spare them,
Nor will I show mercy upon them.
And if they shout loudly into My ears,
I won't listen to the things they are saying!'

Chapter 9

¹ Then He shouted into my ears with a great voice and said: 'The punishment on this city has finally arrived!'

[Well, men then appeared] who were each carrying implements of destruction in their hands. ² {Look!} There were six men coming along the road that leads to the upper gate (the one that faces north), and each one was carrying a battle axe in his hand. There was also a man in the midst of them who was wrapped in a robe that reached to his feet and who was wearing a belt [covered with] sapphires around his waist. Then they entered [the Temple area] and stood next to the brass Altar. ³ And at that, the glory of the God of IsraEl ascended from between the cherubs, and it hung there between them in the open air of the [Temple]. Then He called out to the man who was dressed in the full-length robe and who wore the belt of sapphires, ⁴ and said to him:

'Now, go through the midst of the city
– Yes, through the midst of JeruSalem –
And put a sign on the foreheads,
Of the men who are groaning and deeply upset,
For the lawless deeds being done here!'

⁵ And He said [to those who were carrying the axes] in my hearing:

'Now, go through the city behind him and strike...
Don't let your eyes spare nor show any mercy!

⁶ Kill and wipe out the old and the young,
Including the women, children and virgins,
And start here at My Most Holy Place...

But stay away from those who've been marked with the sign!'

So they started with the elders who were there inside the [Most Holy].

⁷ And He said to [those who were carrying the axes]:

'Now, you must dirty My [Temple]...
Fill its courtyards [with those whom you'll slay]...
And strike down all who are [fleeing]!'

⁸ Then as they started their destroying, I fell to my face and yelled out: 'O Lord! Are you going to wipe out all the remaining ones of IsraEl by pouring out Your rage upon JeruSalem?'

⁹ And He told me:

'The sins of the houses of IsraEl and Judah,
Have now become just too great;
For with [bloodshed], the land has now become filled,
And the city is full of uncleanness and sin.

'For they say that Jehovah's abandoned the land,
And that He's not paying attention.

¹⁰ So My eyes won't spare or show mercy,
And I'll hold them to blame for their badness.'

¹¹ Then {Look!} the man who was wrapped in the full-length robe and who was wearing the belt around his waist came to Him and said:

'All that You've told me to do has now been accomplished!'

Chapter 10

¹ Well at that, I looked up and I saw that in the space over the heads of the cherubs, there was a sapphire stone that looked like a throne sitting over them. ² And [the One who was sitting on the throne] said to the man that was wearing the robe:

'Go between the wheels that are under the cherubs,
And fill your hands with the coals that you'll find,
Then scatter them over the city!'

So he went in [between the wheels] there in front of me ³ (as the cherubs were standing to the right of the place where the man had entered), and then a mist started to fill the inner courtyard. ⁴ And thereafter, the glory of Jehovah (which had been hanging in the open air

between the cherubs) entered the Temple, and [the inner courtyard] became filled with the cloud, as well as with the brightness of the glory of Jehovah.

⁵ Meanwhile, I could hear the sounds of the wings of cherubs coming from the outer courtyard, which was like the voice of God when He speaks. ⁶ And they said this to the man who was wrapped in the holy robe:

'Now, go between the wheels that are under the cherubs,
And take some of the fire!'

So he entered and stood next to the wheels. ⁷ Then a cherub stuck his hands into the midst of the fire that was under the cherubs and grabbed some of the [fire], and he placed it in the hands of the man who was wearing the holy robe, who took it and then left.

⁸ Well, when I looked at the cherubs, I noticed that they had what appeared to be the hands of men between their wings. ⁹ And {Look!} I saw the four wheels standing beside each of the cherubs (one wheel for each cherub). These wheels looked like peridots, ¹⁰ and there appeared to be wheels within each of the four wheels, ¹¹ but their four parts didn't move as they traveled. Then whichever way the [cherub's] heads looked, the [wheels] would follow in that direction; and the [wheels] didn't turn as they moved.

¹² Then I noticed that there were eyes all over their flesh, hands, and wings, as well as on the four wheels, ¹³ And it was then that I heard that these wheels were called, 'The Chariots.' ¹⁴ [I also noticed] that [each of the cherubs] had four faces. One face was that of a cherub, the second was the face of a man, the third was the face of a lion, and the fourth was the face of an eagle... ¹⁵ and then the cherubs started moving upward. So these were the [same] animals that I had seen by the Chobar River.

¹⁶ Well, wherever the cherubs went, the wheels traveled alongside them. But when the cherubs flew high above the ground with their wings, the wheels next to them didn't turn.

¹⁷ Then whenever they stood still, the wheels stood still, and when they flew upward, the wheels flew upward with them, because the breath of life was in [the wheels].

¹⁸ Then the glory of Jehovah left the open air inside the [Temple], as He was mounted on the cherubs. ¹⁹ And when that happened, the cherubs raised their wings and flew high above the ground in front of me (and their wheels were alongside them as they moved). Then [they came to rest] on top of the gate that is in front of the [Temple] of Jehovah, and the glory of the God of IsraEl was above them.

²⁰ Well, it was after I had first seen these animals traveling beneath the God of IsraEl back at the Chobar River that I came to realize they were cherubs. ²¹ Each one had four faces, four wings, and what looked like the hands of a man under each wing... ²² and these [cherubs] had the same faces that I saw under the glory of the God of IsraEl in the vision by the Chobar River, and they also traveled in the directions that they faced.

Chapter 11

¹ Then [God's] Breath took me and led me to the East Gate of the [Temple] of Jehovah, and {Look!} there on the threshold of the gate, I saw about twenty-five men. Among them I could see JaAzaniAh (the son of Azur) and PedaiAh (the son of BenaiAh)... the ones who were supposed to be guiding the people. ² And He said to me:

'O son of man;

These are the men who think foolish things,
And discuss evil plans for this city.

³ They are also the ones who are saying,
*Since we have just built our houses,
This is our kettle and we are its meat!*

⁴ 'For this, you must prophesy against them...
Yes, O son of man; you must now prophesy!'

⁵ Then the Breath of Jehovah came over me and He told me to tell them that Jehovah said this:

'O you house of IsraEl;
I know the things that you're saying,
And I know what you've planned in your [hearts].

⁶ To this city, you've brought many deaths,
And you've filled her roads with the murdered.

⁷ 'Because of this,' says Jehovah;
'Those whom you've killed are the meat in her midst,
And [JeruSalem] is their kettle;
For I'll drive you out of her midst!

⁸ 'Since you're afraid of the broadsword,
I'm bringing the broadsword against you,' says Jehovah,

⁹ 'Then I'll lead you out of her midst.
I'll bring My judgments against you,
And hand you over to strangers;

¹⁰ Then, at their hands, you will fall by the sword.

'To the borders of IsraEl, I'll judge you...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.

¹¹ Then [this city] will be your kettle no more,
And in her, you'll not be the meat.

¹² 'To the borders of IsraEl, I'll judge you...
Then you'll know that I am Jehovah.
For you chose to overlook My Commandments,
And you didn't [respect] My decisions;
Then you walked in the ways of the nations...
Those who now have you surrounded.'

¹³ It was then that the prophecy came to pass, for PedaiAh (the son of BenaiAh) dropped dead. So I fell to my face and yelled out in a loud voice, saying, 'Alas, O Jehovah; Have You appointed those who are left in IsraEl to be totally consumed?'

¹⁴ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

¹⁵ 'O son of man;
Your brothers and your fellow captives,
Are already at the place where they'll go.
And those who are still in JeruSalem,
Are saying this about all of you:

*Because they are far from Jehovah,
We will inherit their land!*

¹⁶ 'So, tell them that thus says Jehovah:
*I'll push you away to the nations,
And scatter you to many lands.
Then I'll not be someone to whom you can turn,
In the places where you will be taken.*

¹⁷ 'And tell them that thus says Jehovah:
*Then I'll gather you back from the nations
(I'll bring you back from where you were sent),
And give each one back [his own land].*

¹⁸ *For, when you return, you'll reject,
The disgusting, lawless things that you did.*

¹⁹ 'A new spirit and heart, I will give them...

I'll remove their hearts made of stone,
And give them hearts made of flesh,

²⁰ So they will then follow My orders...

They'll guard My Laws and obey them...

They'll be My people and I'll be their God!

²¹ 'It's because of the disgusting things that they've done,
And the lawless ways of their hearts,
That their hearts have chosen to do these [bad] things,
And caused Me to bring their blame on their heads,' says Jehovah.

²² Then the cherubs lifted their wings [and started flying], as the wheels moved alongside them and the glory of the God of IsraEl was above them. ²³ The glory of Jehovah arose from the midst of the city and settled on the mountain that was sitting in front of it. ²⁴ And at that, the Breath [of God] picked me up and took me back to the land of the Chaldeans (back to the land of our captivity) in this vision that came from the Breath of God.

Well, after I came out of this vision that I saw, ²⁵ I told [my fellow] captives every word that the Lord had spoken to me.

Chapter 12

¹ And then the Word of Jehovah came to me again, saying:

² 'O son of man;

You live in the midst of unrighteous [men]...

Those who have eyes that can't see,

And those who have ears that can't hear;

For, they are a house in rebellion.

³ 'So you, O son of man;

Go gather the things of a captive,

And act like someone in prison;

[Then, sit] there before them throughout the whole day.

'Before them, act like a captive...

Someone being carried away from his place,
And taken to some other place,
So that they will be able to see,
What a house in rebellion they've been.

⁴ 'You must set your things of a captive
In front of their eyes, throughout the whole day,
And walk as a captive before them each night.

⁵ 'Dig a hole in the wall and crawl in it,
⁶ And carry [your things] on your shoulders...
Act as though you are trying to hide...
Then, cover your face so you can't see the ground.
For, to the house of IsraEl, I've made you a sign.'

⁷ Well, I did that... everything that He told me to do. I brought out the items of captivity that day, and that evening I dug a hole through the wall for myself (by hand), and I crawled into it as though I was hiding. And thereafter, I carried my things on my shoulders before them all.

⁸ And the Word of Jehovah came to me the next morning, saying,

⁹ 'O son of man;
The house of IsraEl (those who are now in rebellion)
Didn't ask you what you were doing.

¹⁰ So, tell them this concerning their rulers...
Those who are giving direction,
To JeruSalem and its people.

'Say that Jehovah has spoken.

¹¹ Then, explain to them that you're acting out signs
Of the things that will happen to them...
For, [in the same way as you're doing],
They will be carried away.

¹² 'Say that the one who rules in their midst,
Will bear his things on his shoulders.
Then he'll dig a hole in a wall with his hands,
Which he'll crawl into and hide.

'He'll cover himself, so he can't be seen,
In a place where he can't see the ground.

¹³ Then around him, I'll spread out My net,
And he will be caught in its wraps.

'So, off to Babylon, I'll lead him...
Yes, into the land of Chaldea...
But he'll not be able to see it,
And there, he'll come to his end.

¹⁴ 'Then, I will scatter his helpers,
And those who've been his assistants,
To the [four] winds [of the earth]...

Yes, I'll send the broadsword [to chase] them away.

¹⁵ 'Then they'll know that I am Jehovah,
When they're scattered among many nations...
[For wherever they go], they'll be scattered.

¹⁶ 'Yet, among their numbers, I'll still leave a few,
As survivors of the sword, famine, and plague,
To speak of these things in great detail
To all the nations where they will be sent.
They'll also tell of how lawless they've been...
And they'll know that I am Jehovah.'

¹⁷ And thereafter, the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

¹⁸ 'O son of man;
In grief, you will now eat your bread,
And in torment and affliction, drink water.

¹⁹ You must speak to the men of this land,
And tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'Soon, there will be no more bread,
And the drinking water will vanish
In IsraEl and JeruSalem.
Then, you will become extinct in the land,
And the violence among all those who lived here,
Will finally have reached its conclusion.*

²⁰ *'The cities where you dwell will be [empty],
As extinction comes to your land,
So you'll know that I am Jehovah.'*

²¹ Thereafter, the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

²² 'O son of man; Why are all the people saying this proverb about IsraEl?
*The days [that he speaks of] are still far away,
And all the visions have perished.*

²³ 'Because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*I will turn their proverb around,
And IsraEl's house will say it no more.
Instead, they will be saying:
The days have finally come,
As have the words of the visions!*

²⁴ 'And [you must also say this]:
*No more will there be false visions,
And none will be speaking of omens,
To curry the favor of IsraEl's sons.*

²⁵ *For, right after I tell them My words,
I'll act and not stretch out the time.*

'Yes, tell them that thus says Jehovah:
In your days, O you house in rebellion,

I'll say the words and then act!

²⁶ Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said,
²⁷ 'O son of man;
See how IsraEl is rebelling;
For, this is what they've started to say:
*The visions he sees are of some distant time,
And he prophesies things [that won't happen for years]!*

²⁸ 'Because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah:
*I'll no longer stretch out the words that I speak;
For now, I'll speak and then act!*

Chapter 13

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:
² 'O son of man;
Against IsraEl's prophets, you must now testify
(Those who [say they can tell what will come])!
You must speak to these prophets and tell them,
That their prophecies spring from their hearts.

'You must prophesy, and then tell them,
To hear the Word of Jehovah!

³ For, this is what was said by the Lord:

*'Woe to all those who prophesy,
From things that come from their hearts,
But who have seen nothing at all...
Those following the directions of their spirits!*

⁴ 'O IsraEl;
*Your prophets are like foxes out in fields,
⁵ For they do not take firm positions.
To the house of IsraEl, they don't gather flocks,
Nor are they getting you ready for war,
By warning about the Day of the Lord.*

⁶ *'The visions they see are all false,
And all their omens are useless;
For they say that Jehovah has spoken,
And they make their words sound important;
Yet, they were not sent by Jehovah.*

⁷ *'Say, Haven't your visions all proven false...
Aren't the words that you've spoken proven untrue?
For you speak when I haven't spoken, says Jehovah!*

⁸ 'For this, I want you to tell them,' said Jehovah,
'That because their words are all false,
And they prophesy things that are foolish...
Because of this, I'm against them,' said Jehovah!

⁹ 'So, toward those prophets, I'll stretch out My hand...
Toward those who are seeing false visions,
And those who declare foolish things,
When they give instructions to My people.
Then among [the faithful of] IsraEl,
Their [names] will never be written...
And they'll know that I am Jehovah!

¹⁰ 'For, they are misleading My people,
By saying there's peace, when there's really no peace...
So the people are plastering walls that will fall.

¹¹ 'They should say to those who are plastering walls:
Your [walls] will soon fall and the rain will pour in.
For I'm sending rocks to be thrown against them,
And then, those [walls] will just drop...
[I'll send] a mighty wind to destroy them!

¹² '{Look!} And after the walls have all fallen,
They will then come here and ask:
What happened to all of the plaster,
With which these [walls] were repaired?

¹³ 'It's because of this,' says Jehovah,
'That I will send out a wind,
Which will rip down [their walls] in My anger;
And then, My rage will flood in.

'In My rage, I'll cause rocks to be thrown,
As I bring it all to an end!

¹⁴ For I'll raze the walls that they've plastered...
I'll lay them out on the ground,
And then, I'll expose their foundations.

'And [you who've foretold better things],
Will then be worn out by their shouting...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.

¹⁵ 'Yes, I'll wear out My rage on those walls,
And on those who are plastering them;
For, all their walls will soon fall.

'Yet, [the problem] is not with the walls,
Or with those applying the plaster;

¹⁶ It's with those who speak of their future...
Those who [come to] them and speak about peace,
When there really won't be any peace,' says Jehovah.

¹⁷ 'And you, O son of man;
Against the daughters of your people,
You must now fix your face...
Against those who now prophesy,

According to the things in their hearts...
Against them, prophesy this...

¹⁸ Tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'Woe to those who sew pillows,
Which are made to be placed under elbows,
And those who create all sizes of veils,
That they say will serve as protection...
Those misleading the lives of My people!*

¹⁹ *'You profane Me in front of My people,
For a handful of barley or a few scraps of bread.
You're ending lives that don't have to die,
And offer protection to souls that won't live...
You promise foolish things to My people!*

²⁰ *'And because of this, says Jehovah,
I am opposed to your pillows,
Which you use to gather their souls.
So, from your arms, I will rip them away,
And lead off those you've misled...
For, they will soon all be scattered.*

²¹ *'I'll also rip off all your veils,
To save My people from your [wicked] hands.
No, into your hands, they'll not fall again...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

²² *'You've perverted the hearts of the righteous,
And strengthened the hands of the lawless...
You've failed to turn them from bad, so they'd live!*

²³ *'And because of this;
You will see false visions no more,
And you won't see any more omens.
For, from your hands, I will rescue My people...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.'*

Chapter 14

¹ Then elders from among the people of IsraEl came to me and they all sat down in front of me. ² And the Word of Jehovah came to me saying:

³ 'Son of man;
The thoughts in the hearts of these people are set;
So, lay out their badness before them,
Since I will now give them an answer.

⁴ Speak and tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'Any man from the house of IsraEl,
Who may start to think in his heart,
That he'll not be punished for his badness,*

*Should arrange his face and then come to the Prophet,
And I (Jehovah) will tell him his thoughts,
5 So I can turn the house of IsraEl's hearts...
Those whose hearts are so far from Me.*

*6 'So, speak to the house of IsraEl and tell them that thus says Jehovah:
Turn from the things that you're doing...
Turn your faces from your godless deeds!*

*7 'For a man – any man – from the house of IsraEl,
Or from among foreign converts,
Who no longer chooses to [walk in My ways],
And starts to think in his heart,
That he should never be punished,
For all the bad things he's done;
He must arrange his face and come to the Prophet,
Then ask, and I will reply,
About the things for which he's concerned.*

*8 'For I'll fix My face against such a man,
And assign him to a place in extinction...
From the midst of My people, I'll lift him away...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

*9 'And if a prophet should say that he's been misled,
And he says I'm the One who misled him;
Against him, I'll stretch out My hand,
And remove him from IsraEl's midst.*

*10 'So each one who [comes before Me] and asks,
Must bear the punishment he's due,
For all of his unrighteous acts...
According to the things he has done.*

*'Then the sins of the prophets will come down on them,
11 So the house of IsraEl will not stay misled,
And remain defiled by its errors.
Then, they'll be a people to Me,
And I'll be their God,' says Jehovah.'*

12 Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

*13 'O son of man;
If a land sins against Me and falls into sin;
Against [that land] I will stretch out My hand,
And break its reliance on bread...
Famine I'll send [to that land],
And remove men and beasts from upon it.*

*14 'But should such good men be found in that land,
As Noah, DaniEl, and Job;
All of these will be saved,' says Jehovah.*

¹⁵ 'And if I must bring ferocious wild beasts,
As a punishment upon such a land;
It will become an extinction...
None will pass through it again,
Because of the faces of the wild beasts I'll send.

¹⁶ 'But if three such good men can be found there;
Yes, as I live,' says Jehovah;
'Its sons and daughters will not be saved...
Just [those three men] will be saved,
And the land will be ruined thereafter.

¹⁷ 'Or if I should bring the sword to that land
– If I say, *Let the broadsword pass through it* –
And I cause men and beasts to be lifted from there...

¹⁸ If three such men can be found in its midst;
As I live,' says Jehovah,
'Its sons and daughters will not be saved,
But those [three men] will be rescued.

¹⁹ 'Or, if I should send a plague to that land,
And pour My rage upon it in blood,
Destroying both men and wild beasts...
²⁰ And among them, three such ones can be found,
As Noah, DaniEl, and Job;
As I live,' says Jehovah,
'Its sons and daughters will not be saved...
For the only thing that can save them,
Is becoming as righteous [as those three men]!'

²¹ Then Jehovah said:
'To JeruSalem, I'll be sending four things:
The sword, famine, and plague,
As well as ferocious wild beasts...
They'll destroy the men and their cattle.

²² '{Look!} And any of those who remain
(Those who escape all these things),
Will then be carried away...
Along with their sons and their daughters.

'Then, {Look!} they'll be brought here to you,
And you'll know of the things that they've thought,
As well as the things that they've done.
And you'll be saddened by the harm that I brought...
For all that I did to JeruSalem.

²³ 'But [your mind] will then be relieved,
Because you will see their ways and their thoughts,
And you'll know that the things which I did,

Weren't done without a good reason,' says Jehovah.

Chapter 15

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² '[Let Me ask] you this, O son of man:
What happens to the wood from all of the vines,
That live among trees in the forests?

³ Do they find some use for this wood...
Do they use their pieces as hangers? ⁴ No!

'{Look!} Each year, they're thrown into the fire,
As [people] are cleaning [their yards].
So the wood disappears in the end,
Since no use for it can be found!

⁵ 'And even whole pieces aren't useful;
For, after they're burned in the flames,
They no longer have any value.'

⁶ Jehovah said:

'So, the same as I've put vines among trees,
To be burned in a fire and consumed,
Is what I've done to those in JeruSalem.

⁷ 'For against them, I've now set My face,
And fire, they'll have to [endure],
For fire will [come and] consume them.
And [when they see that] it's My face against them,
They'll know that I am Jehovah.

⁸ 'I'll appoint [their] land to extinction,
Because, they fell into error,' said Jehovah.

Chapter 16

¹ And the Word of Jehovah came to me saying,

² 'O son of man;
To JeruSalem, you must now testify,
About all of her lawless deeds!

³ So, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'Your roots and your birth are in CanaAn,
Where an Amorite man was your father,
And a Hittite [woman], your mother.*

*⁴ 'And concerning your birth and the day you were born;
Your naval wasn't cut, nor were you washed,
No one [cleansed] you with salt,
And you weren't wrapped up in a blanket.*

*⁵ 'For their eyes didn't feel enough pity for you,
To do any such things;*

*So they threw you out into the fields,
Since your soul was deformed from your birth.*

*⁶ 'Then I came and saw you defiled in your blood,
And I said to you, Come to life!
I'm the One who said this to you in your blood:
Come to life... become many!*

*⁷ 'I made you like things that grow in the fields,
Then you became many and great,
And you entered the city of cities.*

*'Thereafter, your breasts and your hair both grew full...
But, you were still indecent and naked.*

*⁸ 'It was then that I came and beheld you,
And I saw that it was your time...
A time for you to find rest.*

*'So I opened and spread out My wings over you,
And I covered your indecent condition.
Over you, I then swore an oath,
And we concluded a Sacred Agreement, says Jehovah.
So, that's when you became Mine.*

*⁹ 'I bathed you in water and washed off your blood,
And then, I rubbed you with oil.*

*¹⁰ I dressed you in [the best] colored clothes...
In blue and linen, I wrapped you,
And I placed a braided belt [on your hips].*

*¹¹ 'I decked you with ornamentation...
I put bracelets on [both] of your [wrists],
And around your neck, put a necklace.*

*¹² 'I gave you a ring for your nose,
As well as disks for your ears,
And to boast, a garland for your head.*

*¹³ 'You were adorned in silver and gold;
Your wraps were the finest of linen;
You had braided hair and colored clothes,
And you ate the finest of flour,
As well as honey and oil.*

*'So, you became exceedingly [great],
And you prospered as though you're a [queen].*

*¹⁴ Among the nations, your name became known,
And this was true of your beauty;
For I'd made your beauty complete...
I'm the One who ordered it for you, says Jehovah.*

¹⁵ 'Then, on your beauty, you came to rely,

*And you gave away [sex], because of your fame...
You poured it out on the roads.*

*¹⁶ 'Then you [ripped] your clothes, so you could make strings,
To tie all your idols together,
And you used them to do what's immoral.
So now there's no way that you can return...
No way, may you come back to Me!*

*¹⁷ 'Then you took the things of which you could boast
(The silver and gold that I gave you),
And made idols, with which you've had sex.
¹⁸ You dressed them up in your colored clothes,
And set before them, My incense and oil.*

*¹⁹ 'You took the bread I provided,
Along with the fine flour, olive oil, and honey,
And set it in front of their faces,
As pleasing scents and aromas.*

*'Yes, you did all of this, says Jehovah.
²⁰ Then you took the sons and the daughters you bore,
And offered them up to [your gods],
Until [they'd all] been consumed.*

*'Yes, you had become [so evil],
²¹ That you killed them to make your gods happy...
You gave all your children to them!
²² And this is much more disgusting,
Than the other bad things that you've practiced.*

*'You forgot the days of your youth,
When you were indecent and naked,
And you lived befouled in your blood.
²³ And now that you've done all your evil,
Woe, woe, upon you, says Jehovah!*

*²⁴ 'A whorehouse you've built for yourself,
And you've posted signs in the squares.
²⁵ You've put them up on each corner,
And there, you've wasted your beauty.*

*'Between your legs, you've led all who would pass.
And again, you made it much worse...
²⁶ You had sex with the sons of Egyptians...
With the flesh of those who live just next door!
Yes, you have done all these bad things,
That have driven Me into a rage.*

*²⁷ 'So look! Against you, I'll stretch My hand,
And I'll remove all your Laws,
Then hand you to those who detest you...*

*To the daughters of the Philistines...
Those who in their godless ways, you have followed.*

²⁸ *'With Assyria's sons, you also had sex,
Which brought you no satisfaction...
Yes, you had sex, but it wasn't enough.
²⁹ So in Canaan's land, you also had sex,
As well as with the Chaldeans...
But you still couldn't find satisfaction.*

³⁰ *'O what will I do to your heart, asks Jehovah,
As you are doing these bad things...
The works of a woman who's known as a whore?
Why, you've even had sex with your daughters!*

³¹ *'Whorehouses, you've built, upon every [street],
But you don't act as the madam!
³² An adulterous woman is all that you are...
One whose man acts as her pimp!*

³³ *'Why, you've payed those to whom you have offered sex...
You've paid wages to all of your lovers,
As inducements for them to stay near,
And engage in all of your whoring!*

³⁴ *'Your perversions are worse than all others;
For, with other whores, you've even had sex...
You paid them (they didn't pay you);
So, what you have done is perversion!*

³⁵ *'Because of this, O you whore;
Hear the Word of Jehovah:
³⁶ Because you paid others with your copper coins,
Your shame will soon be uncovered...
Your whoring with all of your lovers,
As well as your evil thoughts...
Your lawless deeds and the blood of your young,
Which you have offered [to idols].*

³⁷ *'So, it is because of these thing that you've done,
That I'll gather your lovers against you,
And mix those you've hated among them.
Together, I'll bring them against you,
Until they have you surrounded.
I'll uncover your evils before them,
And then, they'll all see your shame.*

³⁸ *'I'll punish you as an adulteress,
And I will pour out your blood...
In My zeal, I'll appoint you for blood,
³⁹ And I'll hand you over to them.*

*'Then they'll cut down all your whorehouses...
They'll demolish your base, and rip off your clothes,
Then take all the things about which you boast...
They'll leave you indecent and naked once more.*

⁴⁰ *'Against you, they will lead mobs,
Who'll stone you with rocks and stab you with swords,
⁴¹ Then burn your whorehouses with fire...
They will wreak vengeance upon you,
There before other women.*

*'But I'll turn you away from your whoring,
And return the money you've paid to your lovers.*

⁴² *Against you, I'll slacken My rage,
And remove the jealous zeal I once had...
Then I'll rest and be anxious no more.*

⁴³ *'Because you forgot the days of your youth,
And brought Me regret with your actions;
{Look!} I'll bring them down on your head, says Jehovah,
And then, you'll be godless no more!*

⁴⁴ *'For against you, they all have said this:*

The daughter is just like the mother;

⁴⁵ *And truly, you're just like your mother ...*

*A woman sent away by her man,
And one who abandoned her children,
As well as her brothers and sisters...
For she also pushed them away,
Along with her husband and children.*

*'For an Amorite man was your father,
And a Hittite woman, your mother.*

⁴⁶ *Samaria is your big sister,
Whose daughters have lived to your left.*

*'Your younger sister, who lives on your right,
Along with her daughters, is Sodom.*

⁴⁷ *And in their ways, you have traveled
– Their lawless deeds, you've done also –
So their ways are now better than yours!*

⁴⁸ *'As I live, says Jehovah;
Has your sister, Sodom, or her daughters,
Ever acted like you and your daughters?*

⁴⁹ *'The sin of Sodom (your sister) was pride.
For, though she had plenty of bread
(She and her daughters had more than enough),
This thing that was found among them was true:
They offered no aid to the needy and poor ...*

⁵⁰ *Before Me, they bragged and broke laws,
And as you saw, I removed them!*

⁵¹ *'Yet, Samaria didn't sin with half of your sins,
And you're now more lawless she.
All the lawless things that you've done,
Prove your sisters more righteous.*

⁵² *So now, you must carry your torment!*

*'By your sins, you've corrupted your sisters...
Yes, worse than theirs, are your lawless ways,
And they look much better than you!
So now, be ashamed and accept your dishonor,
For it's you who made them look better.*

⁵³ *'So from them, I'll remove My rejection
– The rejection of Sodom and her daughters –
And I'll remove Samaria's rejection,
(As well as that of her daughters)...
Then, I'll remove you from their midst!*

⁵⁴ *'So now, you must bear their torment and disgrace,
For all that you did to provoke Me.*

⁵⁵ *And your sister, Sodom, and her daughters,
Will be restored as they were at the first,
Along with Samaria and her daughters,
Who'll be as they were when they started.
Yes, her daughters will all be restored,
As they had been [long ago].*

⁵⁶ *'Wasn't Sodom (your sister) a reason to boast,
In the days of your pride,*

⁵⁷ *Before your evils were seen...
Those evils for which you're now being scorned,
By all of Syria's daughters,
And by those who are living around you...
Like the daughters of the Philistines...
Those who live just next door?*

⁵⁸ *'As for all your irreverent ways,
And the lawless deeds that you've done, says Jehovah;*

⁵⁹ *I'll do to you as you've done to Me...
For, you've disgraced the promise you made,
By breaking your Agreement with Me.*

⁶⁰ *'Yet, I will remember My oath...
The one that I made with you in your youth,
To establish My Agreement with you through the age.*

⁶¹ *Then perhaps you'll remember the right ways to act.*

'But, for following in the ways of your sisters

*(Both the younger and older),
You will now be despised.*

'And I'll give them to you, so you'll teach them...

But not of your Sacred Agreement with Me.

⁶² For My Sacred Agreement will just be with you...

And you'll know that I am Jehovah.

⁶³ 'So remember, and then be ashamed.

Do not open your mouth,

Because your face is dishonored,

Since I'm the One who's had to atone,

For all the bad things that you've done, says Jehovah.'

Chapter 17

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said,

² 'O son of man;

Tell this story and sing it as a song

Before the house of IsraEl.

³ Tell them that thus says Jehovah:

'There was a great eagle with very large wings,

Whose claws were long and outstretched.

To Lebanon, He was then led,

Where He perched on the choicest of cedars.

⁴ 'The most tender tips, He plucked off,

And to the land of Canaan, He took them;

Then He placed them in a city with walls.

⁵ 'He also took a seed from the land,

And planted it in ground fit for sowing

(A place with plenty of water),

And He arranged for it to be tended.

⁶ 'Then it grew and became a small vine,

Which proved that it would be great.

And above it, grew branches of vines,

As the roots [grew strong] underneath it...

It became a vine with layers of vines,

And its tendrils kept spreading around.

⁷ 'There was also another great eagle,

Which had large wings and [long] claws.

And {Look!} the grapevine then twisted toward him,

As did its roots and its branches.

'Then she reached toward him from her water,

Pulling her from her place in the sun ...

⁸ Though the soil in which she was planted was good,

And she had plenty of water.

*She was fat and putting out buds,
And as a great vine, was bearing much fruit.*

⁹ Then Jehovah asked:

'Will she continue to prosper...
Will she still have roots that are tender...
Won't all her fruits start to rot?

'Yes, those early shoots will all dry,
But, not because of some great mighty arm,
Or because an army has pulled up her roots.

¹⁰ '{Look!}' Yes, will this fat one continue to prosper?
Won't she now be touched by hot winds,
And then be dried up by drought...
When the east winds blow, won't she shrivel?'

¹¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

'Ask the rebellious house what this means...
Yes, [go ahead and just] ask them!

¹² '{Look!}' Babylon's king will now come to JeruSalem,
To capture her king and her rulers,
And to Babylon, he'll carry them back.

¹³ 'He will take the seed of the kingdom,
Then, force him to swear an oath of allegiance...
As he takes the rulers away from their land.

¹⁴ 'So the kingdom will then be so weak,
That it won't be able to lift itself up.
So in order for them to survive,
They'll have to keep their treaty with him.

¹⁵ 'But [the king] will thereafter revolt,
And send his envoys to Egypt,
To beg them for horses and men.

'Will he succeed...
Will the one who disobeyed be preserved...
Will they save the one who has broken his oath?

¹⁶ 'As I live,' says Jehovah;
'Surely, here in the place of the king,
He's disgraced the one who allowed him to rule,
And broken the oath of his treaty.
So to Babylon, he'll be taken,
And that is where he'll come to his end.

¹⁷ 'This will not come by any great power,
Nor by the [strength] of large [armies].
For, PharaOh will join him in war...
He'll bring weapons and then erect siege mounds,

And he will take many lives.

¹⁸ 'But because [the king] was disgraced by the oath
(The one that he swore before Me);
When he breaks the agreement he made
({Look!} The one over which he held up his hand)...
For this, he will not escape.

¹⁹ 'Tell him that thus says Jehovah:
*As I live; he has been disgraced,
By breaking the agreement he made before Me.
So upon his head, I'll lay this:*

²⁰ *'Over him, I'll spread out My net;
Then, he will be wrapped up and captured,
And to Babylon, he will be led,
Where I'll judge him for his sins against Me.*

²¹ *'Then his armies that are ready for battle,
Will all be cut down by the sword.
And the rest of those who remain,
Will be scattered into the [four] winds...
And they'll know that I (Jehovah) have spoken.'*

²² Then the Lord said:
'But then, from the choicest of cedars,
I will pluck off a top...
Yes, out of its heart, I will pluck it,
And on a high mountain, I'll plant it.

²³ 'On one of IsraEl's Mountains, I'll place it...
I'll plant it and then it will bud,
And it will bear fruit once again.

'Once more, it will be a great cedar,
And a place of resting for birds.
In the shadow of its branches, they'll rest;
For the branches of her vines will then be restored.

²⁴ 'Then, all the trees in the plains,
Will know that I am Jehovah...
I'm the One who humbles the trees in their heights,
And who raises the ones that have been laid low.

'I'm the One who can dry up green trees,
Or make them flourish in dryness.
Because, I am Jehovah...
I've spoken, and now I will act!'

Chapter 18

¹ And the Word of Jehovah came to me saying:

² 'O son of man;

How does the proverb apply,
To the land of IsraEl, which says:

*'When the fathers eat grapes that aren't ripe,
The mouths of the children get toothaches?*

³ As I live,' said Jehovah;
'Will this proverb prove true among IsraEl?

⁴ 'I'm the One who owns all their souls...
Yes, the lives of both the fathers and sons.
And since they are all really Mine;
Those who are sinning, will die!

⁵ 'But the one who is fair, righteous, and just...

⁶ Who doesn't feast to idols on hills...
Whose eyes are not [filled up with pride]...
Whose thoughts are of the House of IsraEl;
Who doesn't defile the wife of his neighbor,
Nor does he dirty his wife,
By approaching her in menstruation...

⁷ Who does not tyrannize men...

Who asks no collateral [for loans]
(Things that he doesn't return)...

Who takes nothing by force...

Who gives bread to the hungry,
And clothes to those who are naked...

⁸ Who doesn't require interest on loans
(Who asks no payment or interest)...

Who turns his hand from injustice...

Who is fair when he serves as the judge
Between a man and his neighbor...

⁹ Who follows in the ways of My orders...

Who guards My Laws and obeys them...

Such a man is found to be righteous,
And he will then receive life,' says Jehovah.

¹⁰ 'But, if he should father a bad son...

One who sins and sheds blood,

¹¹ And won't follow the right ways of his father,
But feasts before idols on mountains,
And willingly defiles the wife of his neighbor...

¹² Who tyrannizes the needy and poor,

And seizes collateral by force,
Then chooses not to return it...

Who turns his eyes toward the idols,
Then practices all that is lawless,

¹³ And lends his things out for interest...

He will not receive life.

For his lawless deeds, he will die,

And his blood will be upon his [own head].

¹⁴ 'Then, if he should father a son,
Who fears all the sins of his father,
And refuses to act as he did...

¹⁵ If he's one who won't feast to idols on hills,
And remembers the house of IsraEl...
If he doesn't defile the wife of his neighbor...

¹⁶ If he doesn't act like a tyrant...
If he doesn't require collateral for loans...
If he doesn't take things by force...
If he gives bread to the hungry,
And gives clothes to those who are naked...

¹⁷ If he doesn't turn his hand toward injustice,
Or charge interest for loans...
If he's righteous and follows My orders...
He'll live and not die for his father's sins!

¹⁸ 'But because his father is oppressive and bad...
Because he seizes by force,
And is contrary among his own people...
For his unrighteous ways, he will die.

¹⁹ 'But then, you will ask:
Why won't the son bear the sins of his father?
It's because he is merciful, righteous, and fair...
He's kept My Laws and obeyed them,
And as the result, he will live!

²⁰ Just the soul that is sinning will die!

'So the son won't be blamed for his father's ways,
And the father will not be blamed,
For the unrighteous ways of his son.
Thus, the righteous ways of each person,
And lawless ways of each person,
Are what they will bring on themselves.

²¹ But if the lawless one turns from what's bad,
And starts to keep My Commandments
(If he becomes merciful, righteous, and just),
He will be granted life...
Yes, he will live and not die!

²² I will forget all his sins
(No matter how many there are)...
For his righteous ways, he will live!

²³ 'Do I wish to bring death to the lawless,' asks Jehovah?
'No! I want them to turn from the bad, so they'll live!

²⁴ But, if the righteous should turn from right ways,
And commit all the sins of the lawless...

If they do such things, they will die...
I'll forget the righteous things that they've done,
And destroy them for their errors and sins.

²⁵ 'But then, you will say:
The ways of Jehovah aren't right!

'Pay attention, O house of IsraEl!
Haven't My ways proven straight?
Aren't yours the ways that are crooked?

²⁶ 'When a righteous man turns from right ways,
Shouldn't he die for his sins?
Since he's the one who's to blame;
Isn't he the one that should die?

²⁷ 'And when the lawless turn from bad ways...
When they start acting righteous and fair,
²⁸ And realize how godless they've been;
All these people should live...
No way should they have to die!

²⁹ 'Yet, the house of IsraEl still claims,
That the ways of Jehovah aren't straight.

'O house of IsraEl;
Is it really My ways that aren't straight?
Aren't yours the ways that are crooked?

³⁰ 'Therefore, O house of IsraEl;
I'll judge each man by his ways,' says Jehovah.
'So, if you should turn from your bad ways,
You won't be punished for the bad things you've done!

³¹ 'You must throw away your impious ways,
And all your irreverence toward Me...
Create for yourselves new spirits and hearts!

'O house of IsraEl; why should you die?

³² I want no one to die,' says Jehovah...
'So, return [to Me] and you'll live!'

Chapter 19

¹ 'Now, I want you to sing this lamentation,
Against the rulers of IsraEl:

² *'Your mother is a lion amidst cubs...
For in the midst of lions, she's had many cubs.*

³ *Then, one of her cubs made the leap,
Into becoming a lion...*

He learned to attack and eat men.

⁴ *'But the nations soon heard all about him,*

*And in their corruption, they caught him;
Then in a cage, they brought him to Egypt.*

*⁵ 'Well, when she saw that [her son] had been caught,
And she had lost her support;
She took another one of her cubs,
And made him grow into a lion.*

*⁶ 'So he started to walk among lions,
And very soon, he became one...
He captured prey and ate men.*

*⁷ 'In their cities, he then boldly fed,
Until the whole land was destroyed,
And filled with the sounds of his roars.*

*⁸ 'So the nations came from their places...
They surrounded him and attacked...
In corruption, they threw nets and caught him.*

*⁹ 'Then they put him into a cage,
And to the king of Babylon, they led him.
Then, because he was kept in a cage,
His roar was no longer heard,
In IsraEl's mountains, thereafter.*

*¹⁰ 'And this mother was just like a grape vine,
Or a pomegranate planted near water.
And because there was so much water,
Soon she grew buds and fruit.*

*¹¹ 'Among the head tribe, she became a strong rod,
And she was esteemed in her greatness,
Amid those great trunks [of trees]...
And she saw that her branches had made herself great.*

*¹² 'But in a rage, she was broken to pieces...
Yes, she was cut to the ground,
And by burning winds, she was dried.
Then her choicest of branches (the rods of her strength),
Were punished, dried out, and then burned.*

*¹³ 'For she'd moved herself into the desert...
To a land that was thirsty and dry.*

*¹⁴ So the flames on her choicest of branches,
Came to her and consumed her.
No longer did she have the rod of her strength,
So to her tribe, she became a song of great woe,
Who will surely be missed ever after.'*

Chapter 20

¹ It was in the seventh year, in the fifth month, and on the tenth day of the month that men

from among the elders of the house of IsraEl came to ask [things] of Jehovah. So they came and sat in front of my face,² and then the Word of the Lord came to me and said:³ 'O son of man; speak to IsraEl's elders and tell them that thus says Jehovah:

'Have you come to ask something of Me?

As I live, I will not reply, says Jehovah!

*⁴ But I'll punish you, O sons of men,
For the lawless deeds of your fathers...
Yes, this is what you must tell them!*

⁵ 'And tell them that thus says Jehovah:

From the day that I took the house of IsraEl,

And made [Myself] known to Jacob's seed

(When I became known down in Egypt)...

When I first took hold of their hand,

And told them that I am Jehovah, their God;

*⁶ Since the day that I took them into My hand,
And led them from Egypt's land...*

Yes, into the land that I had prepared...

A land that flowed with honey and milk

(Honeycombs that are greater than in all other lands),

⁷ And I told them that they must abandon,

The disgusting things in front of their eyes,

And the defilements of Egypt...

I've been Jehovah, their God!

⁸ 'But then, they revolted against Me,

And refused to hear the things that I said.

Their disgusting things, they didn't remove

(The things [they could see] with their eyes),

Nor did they leave the bad ways of Egypt.

'So I threatened to pour upon them My rage,

And finish My anger among them in Egypt.

⁹ Then I acted so My Name would not be profaned,

Before the nations among which they lived

(Those to whom I had made [Myself] known),

And I led them from Egypt's land.

¹⁰ 'I led them from Egypt and into the desert,

¹¹ Where I gave them My orders and all of My Laws...

Which, if a man does them, bring life.

¹² 'And I gave them My Sabbaths to serve as a sign,

That they know that I am Jehovah,

The One who is making them holy.

¹³ 'But in the desert, they made Me feel bitter;

For, they didn't follow My orders,

And My Laws, they then pushed away

*(Which, if a man does them, bring life),
And they profaned all My Sabbaths.*

*'So in the desert, I threatened to pour out My rage,
And to completely consume them.*

*¹⁴ But I [held back], so My Name would not be profaned,
Among the nations who saw that I was their leader.*

*¹⁵ 'Then in the desert, I lifted My hand,
So as not to bring them into the land
– A land that flows with honey and milk...
Honeycombs that are greater than in all other lands –*

*¹⁶ For they'd pushed away all My Laws,
And they wouldn't follow My orders;
They also profaned all My Sabbaths,
And they followed the desires of their hearts.*

*¹⁷ 'Yet, My eyes continued to spare them...
I did not wipe them away;
Nor destroy them there in the desert.*

*¹⁸ 'I told their children, there in the desert,
Not to follow the laws of their fathers,
Or to obey their [bad] rules
– Not to defile themselves with the ways of their fathers –
¹⁹ For, I am Jehovah, their God.*

*'[I told them that they must] follow My orders...
To keep My Laws and obey them,
²⁰ And to keep My Sabbath days holy;
For, this is the sign between them and Me,
That I am Jehovah, their God.*

*²¹ 'But against Me, they also rebelled,
And their children wouldn't follow My orders...
They wouldn't guard My Laws or obey them
– The Laws that bring life to all who'll obey –
And they profaned all My Sabbaths.*

*'So I spoke to them in My rage...
I threatened to pour My anger upon them,
And finish My rage in the desert.*

*²² So against them, I then turned My hand,
And I acted because of Myself...
So My Name would not be profaned,
Before the nations, from whom they'd been led.*

*²³ 'In the desert, I lifted My hand,
To scatter them among all the nations,
²⁴ Because they'd refused to follow My Laws,
And My orders, they'd just pushed away;*

*Yes, they had profaned all My Sabbaths,
And they followed their fathers' ideas.*

²⁵ *'So I handed them to their fathers' instructions,
And to laws that did not bring life.*

²⁶ *I let their orders to defile them,
And scatter all those who opened the womb
– To completely wipe them away –
So they'd know that I am Jehovah.*

²⁷ *'Because of these things, O son of man;
Speak to the house of IsraEl,
And tell them that thus says Jehovah:*

*'To this day, your fathers have forced Me to rage,
By the errors they've committed against Me.*

²⁸ *For, though I brought them into the land,
Which I gave to them when I lifted My hand
(When they saw its shady trees and high hills),
They still sacrificed before other gods.*

*'So My wrath was then brought upon them,
And against the gifts that they offered to Me.
For, to other gods, they had offered,
Drink offerings, incense, and pleasing aromas.*

²⁹ *'Then I asked:
What's so important about your high places,
That you're still choosing to go there?
(For, they call them High Places down to this day).*

³⁰ *'So tell IsraEl that thus says Jehovah:
Do all the lawless deeds of your fathers...
With their disgusting ways, become dirty!*

³¹ *Offer them your first-fruits and gifts,
Then pass your children through fire!
Defile yourselves in all of your thoughts,
As you've continued to do to this day!*

*'So, O house of IsraEl;
Must I give a reply?*

*As I live, says Jehovah;
If I should give you an answer,
Would your spirits pay any attention?*

³² *Won't you say that you want to be like the gentiles...
Like all the [other] tribes of the earth,
Who serve before wood and stone idols?*

³³ *'Because of this, as I live, says Jehovah;
I'll rule over you with a strong hand,
And with My arm raised high in great rage!*

³⁴ *'But I'll lead you out from those peoples,
And take you away from those places,
Where I've dispersed you with My strong hand,
And My arm raised high in great rage!*

³⁵ *'Then I'll lead you into the deserts,
And there before all the nations,
I'll argue your case face to face,
³⁶ Just as I did for your fathers,
Back in the deserts of Egypt...
Yes, that's how I'll then be your judge, says Jehovah.*

³⁷ *'I'll lead you away with My rod,
And take you [back to your homeland].
³⁸ Then I'll pick away all from among you,
Who are irreverent and rebellious,
And remove them from those who [are righteous] ...
To the land of IsraEl, they'll not return...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

³⁹ *'Jehovah says:
As for you, O house of IsraEl;
Move away from your evil ways,
And then, you must listen to Me!
You may not profane My Holy Name,
With your gifts and those [wicked] deeds,
⁴⁰ That you practice on My Holy Mountain,
And upon all of IsraEl's hills.*

*'Jehovah says:
IsraEl must serve Me there in their land;
For, that is where I'll receive them,
And it's where I'll keep watch on their first fruits...
The first-fruits of all that they offer,
And the rest of their most-holy things.*

⁴¹ *'And when I bring them back from the nations
(From the places where they will be scattered),
I'll accept their pleasant aromas again,
And I will be holy among them,
Before the eyes of the rest of the people...
⁴² And they'll know that I am Jehovah,
When I bring them back to IsraEl's land...
The land that I gave to their fathers.*

⁴³ *'Then, you will reconsider your ways,
And think of all the bad things you did,
In order to make yourselves dirty,
And slap your own faces for your evil ways...
⁴⁴ And you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

*'You'll also understand that I did all these things,
So My Name would not be profaned,
By your practices and evil ways, says Jehovah.*

⁴⁵ Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

⁴⁶ 'O son of man;
Now, turn your face toward TeMan and look...
You must look toward [your land in the south];
Then, you must prophesy this,
Toward the woods that lead down to the Negev!

⁴⁷ 'You must tell those in the Negev's wooded lands,
To hear the Word of Jehovah!
For, this is what He has said:
*{Look!} Within you, I'll now light a fire,
Which will burn all your dry and green trees.
And after this fire has been lit,
It will not be extinguished!*

*'All your faces will then be consumed,
By winds that come from the east and the north.*

⁴⁸ *And all flesh will know that I am Jehovah,
When I light a blaze that won't be extinguished.'*

⁴⁹ But I said: 'O Lord... O Jehovah... by no means! For then they will ask, *Aren't you just telling us a parable?*'

Chapter 21

¹ And the Lord replied to me saying:

² 'Because of these things, O son of man,
[You must now] prophesy...
Toward JeruSalem, you must now set your face,
And look toward its Most Holy place;
Then to IsraEl, prophesy this...'

³ Tell IsraEl that thus says Jehovah:

*'Look, I am against you,
So I'll pull My sword from its sheath,
And destroy your unrighteous and lawless.*

⁴ *'For among you, I will now destroy,
All the unrighteous and lawless.
I'll pull My sword from its sheath,
[Using those] from the north and the east.
⁵ And when I pull My sword from its sheath,
I will not be putting it back,
So all flesh will know that I am Jehovah.*

⁶ 'And you, O son of man;
Groan as though you have broken your hips...

Before their eyes, you must moan in grief.

⁷ And if they ask why you're groaning,
This is what you should tell them:

*'The message that comes will break [all your] hearts,
And all your hands will grow feeble.
For all flesh and all spirits will die,
And all [bottoms] will be tainted by wetness.*

⁸ *'Look... it's coming and it will soon happen,
Says Jehovah, [your] God.'*

⁹ And thereafter, the Word of the Lord came to me and said:
'O son of man;
Now you must prophesy this...
You must tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'O broadsword, O broadsword, be angry and sharp,
¹⁰ Then, slay the victims for slaughter.
Be sharpened until you are shiny,
Then prepare for numbing and slay!
Treat [them all] with contempt,
And chop down all of their trees!*

¹¹ *'So he made it ready to be held in his hand
(This sword which he had just sharpened).
He prepared it for use by the one who stabs through.*

¹² *'So, cry out and shriek, O sons of men,
For upon My people, it's coming,
And upon all of IsraEl's guides...
This sword [will come down on them all]!*

¹³ *'It will come to My people,
And because of this, clap your hands;
For, this is justice that's due.'*

'But, what if our tribe is then thrown away?' I asked.

'It just won't happen,' said the Lord.

¹⁴ 'And you, O son of man, must now prophesy...
Clap one hand on the other,
To bring back the broadsword again;
For, this third is a sword of great slaughter...
It's the one that will truly amaze.

¹⁵ 'It will break all the hearts, as many grow weak,
While they're standing there at their gates.
For they'll all be killed by the sword.

*'Well done, O sharp one that slaughters.
Well done, O you that's so shiny.*

Now like lightning, you must go forth and slay!

¹⁶ *'Sharpen both sides, the right and the left...
Swing it wherever your face will be roused.*

¹⁷ *'I'll also clap hand against hand,
And then, I'll slacken My rage,
For I Jehovah, have spoken.'*

¹⁸ Then the Word of the Lord came to me again, and said:

¹⁹ 'And you, O son of man;
Prepare two different ways for the sword,
So that Babylon's king may now enter.

'Two [armies] will come from one place;
One will come from the right,
And the other, from the city's top street.
So, prepare that corner of the street!

²⁰ 'The broadsword [will first enter] RabBah;
And then, from among AmMon's sons,
An attack will be launched on JeruSalem.

²¹ And on those most ancient roads,
The king of Babylon will stand.

'On the corner, between the two streets, [he will stand],
Asking his oracles for signs...
[He'll ask them] to stir with the rod,
And to question their idols,
Then to look into the liver.

²² 'So an oracle will give him instructions,
And tell him to throw up a siege mound,
On JeruSalem's right.

'He'll open his mouth and then yell:
*Raise your voices and shout,
Then against her gates, erect siege mounds!
Yes, build the mounds all around them,
And create more weapons of war!*

²³ 'For he'll serve as an omen against them...
He'll provide divination concerning [their end].
He'll remind them that they will be captives,
Because they have been so unrighteous.

²⁴ 'It's because of this,' said the Lord...
'He'll help them remember their unrighteous ways,
And their irreverence will then be uncovered.

'He will show them their sins,
As well as the laws that they've broken...
They'll be captured, and then they'll remember.

²⁵ 'And you, O lawless profane one...
Upon you, who are IsraEl's guide,
Your unrighteous days will have come to their end;

²⁶ For [the Lord] Jehovah said this:

*'Remove the turban and take off the crown,
Because, they'll no longer be yours.
For, from your high place, you will be cut down,
And then, what is low will be raised!*

²⁷ *'To the unrighteous, I'll bring what's unrighteous...
And that's all there'll be 'til the time,
When the one who is worthy arrives...
And to him, I will give all.*

²⁸ 'Yes, prophesy now, O son of man...
To the sons of AmMon, now say,
That Jehovah said this concerning their scorn:

*'O broadsword, O broadsword, now be unsheathed!
Be unsheathed for the victims of slaughter...
Arise and shine to consume them!*

²⁹ *'All your visions are worthless,
And all your oracles have lied,
Because they've all failed to save you...
Their lawless ways [brought swords to] your necks,
And your unrighteous days have reached their end.*

³⁰ *'Now return, [O sword], to your sheath!
For, in this place where you were once born,
I'll judge these [people] in their own land,
³¹ And I'll pour all My rage out upon them.*

*'Against you, I'll breathe the fire of My rage,
And to the barbarians, I'll hand you...
To those contriving corruption.*

³² *'By fire, you will be devoured,
And blood will flow throughout your land.
Then, you'll be remembered no more,
For I Jehovah, have spoken.'*

Chapter 22

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² 'And you, O son of man,
Must now judge the city because of its blood...
You must make an example of her,
For all of her lawless deeds!

³ 'You must say that the Lord Jehovah said this:

'O city of so much shed blood

(The one who has made herself dirty);

*⁴ You've fallen into the blood that you've shed,
And defiled yourself with your thoughts.*

So the end of your days has drawn near...

Yes, you've reached the end of your years.

'You are given to be scorned by the nations,

And for every region to mock you...

⁵ You'll be mocked by those who live near you,

And by those who live far away.

Yes, you unclean one, they'll mock you;

For your lawless ways are now famous.

⁶ 'Look at what IsraEl's guides have been doing;

For they've joined with all their relations,

In order to spill innocent blood!

⁷ And [look at] your fathers and mothers;

For they just speak of doing what's bad.

'You treat foreign peoples unjustly,

And you tyrannize orphans and widows.

⁸ My holy things, you treat with contempt,

And you are profaning My Sabbaths!

⁹ 'The men among you are robbers,

And they shed innocent blood.

Then, in the mountains, they feast to their idols...

They're doing such unholy things in your midst!

¹⁰ 'They've uncovered the shame of their fathers,

And they've defiled many women,

Who are sitting apart as unclean.

¹¹ 'Each has done wrong with his neighbor's wife;

Each one has defiled his daughters-in-law,

And they've done ungodly things to their sisters...

They've debased the daughters of their fathers!

¹² 'They take bribes and they have shed blood;

Interest and rent, they require...

So they've reached the end of their evil...

In their tyranny, they have overlooked Me, says Jehovah.

¹³ 'Now, if I clap hand against hand,

Against all the evils you've done

(Yes, against all the bad things you've done,

And all the blood that's been shed in your midst),

¹⁴ Will your heart be able to stand [what I'll do],

And will your hands [still be strong] when I do it?

For, I Jehovah, have spoken...

Yes [I've spoken] and now I will act!

¹⁵ *'I'll spread you among all the nations...*

I will scatter you to many regions...

And then your uncleanness will vanish.

¹⁶ *'I'll assign other nations to watch over you,*

And you'll know that I am Jehovah.'

¹⁷ Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

¹⁸ 'O son of man;

{Look!} Before me, the house of IsraEl's become,

Like brass that is mixed up with iron,

Or like tin and lead mixed with silver.

¹⁹ 'And because of this [wicked condition],

You must tell them that thus says [Jehovah]:

Since you are all mixed together;

I'll bring you into JeruSalem's midst,

²⁰ *As though you are inside a furnace.*

'Then, just as silver that has become mixed,

With brass, tin, iron, and lead,

And air is blown in to refine it...

That's what I'll do to you in My rage.

'In My anger, I'll gather you all,

And throw you into a furnace.

²¹ *Then I'll blow on you with the fire of My rage,*

And you'll be refined in its midst.

²² *'Yes, as silver is cast in a furnace,*

You'll be thrown into an oven.

And you'll know that I am Jehovah,

When I pour My rage out upon you.'

²³ Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said,

²⁴ 'O son of man; you must now tell them this:

You are the land... the land without rain;

For the rain won't pour in the day of [My] rage.

²⁵ *'Since the leaders in your midst are like lions,*

Which roar and seize prey by force...

Since they dominate, destroy, and consume,

And take whatever has value;

The numbers of widows have grown in your midst.

²⁶ *'For your priests have annulled all My Laws,*

And My holy things, they've profaned.

They can't tell the holy from what is profane...

They don't know the clean from the unclean.

²⁷ *From My Sabbaths, they've hidden their eyes,*

And I've been profaned in their midst.

²⁸ *'So her prophets who do the anointing,*

*Will soon, all be cut down...
Yes, those who see only vain things,
And omens of things that aren't true,
But say that Jehovah has spoken to them,
When He's not spoken at all.*

*²⁹ 'And even the land's [common] people,
Call for what is unrighteous,
And [ask for their share] of the loot.
They are tyrants to the needy and poor,
And they treat foreign peoples unfairly!*

*³⁰ 'So I searched among them for one righteous man...
One who'll stand firm in the time of My rage,
So I wouldn't have to bring her conclusion,
And totally wipe her away.
But, no such man could I find.*

*³¹ So, I will pour out My anger...
I'll send the fire of My rage,
In order to finish her off!
For I'm bringing her blame upon her own head,' said Jehovah.'*

Chapter 23

*¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said: ² 'O son of man;
Two women were the daughters of one mother,
³ And they were immoral during their youth.
They [had sex] down in Egypt...
Yes, there is where their breasts fell,
And it's where they lost their virgin condition.*

*⁴ 'The eldest one's name was AhoLah,
And her sister was named AhoLiBah.
To Me, they both had been given,
To bear My sons and My daughters.*

*'Are these really their names? No!
Samaria is AhoLah,
And AhoLiBah is JeruSalem.*

*⁵ 'AhoLah had been unfaithful to Me,
And doted upon all her lovers...
The Assyrians, with whom she had [slept] ...*

*⁶ Their blue-clad commanders and leaders,
And the choicest of all their young men,
As well as those who ride horses.*

*⁷ 'To them, she offered herself...
To the choicest of Assyria's sons.
Yes, she gave it to those she desired,*

And wholeheartedly dirtied herself.

⁸ *'But her affair with Egypt, hadn't ended;
For with them, she [slept] in her youth.
Her virgin condition, she gave them,
And they poured [their semen] upon her.*

⁹ *'So I handed her to all her lovers
(To the sons of the Assyrians, whom she desired),
¹⁰ And they uncovered her shame.
Then they took her sons and her daughters,
And slaughtered them all with their broadswords.
So the women gossiped about her,
When [Assyrians] brought vengeance upon her.*

¹¹ *'But when AhoLiBah saw what had happened,
She became more corrupt [than her sister] ...
Even more immoral than she.*

¹² *'For she loved the sons of Assyria ...
Those nearby commanders and leaders,
Who wore such elegant clothes,
And the men who rode on their horses ...
Yes, all their choicest young men.*

¹³ *'So I saw that they'd both been defiled,
And that both were the same [kind of women].*

¹⁴ *'Then, to her bad ways, she added,
As she looked upon men that were painted on walls ...
Images of the Chaldeans,
Who were depicted with brush strokes on walls,
¹⁵ Wearing colored belts on their hips,
As well as deeply-dyed turbans,
All giving the appearance of officials,
Among the sons of Babylon ...
Of her fatherland, the Chaldeans.*

¹⁶ *'She doted on them with her eyes,
And she sent her messengers to them,
There in the land of Chaldea.*

¹⁷ *'So those sons of Babylon came,
And upon her marriage-bed they then rested ...
In their immoral ways, they defiled her.*

*'And as she was being defiled,
She put her life in their hands ...
¹⁸ Her immoral shame, she uncovered ...
She removed My soul from her life,
As her sister had already done.*

¹⁹ *'And then, she became even worse,
As she remembered the days of her youth,
When she [had sex] down in Egypt,
²⁰ And doted upon the Chaldeans.
For, they had flesh just like burros,
And genitals like those of horses.*

²¹ *'You overlooked the lawless ways of your youth...
The things that you did down in Egypt,
And the place where you had once lodged...
And where the breasts of your youth had first fallen.*

²² *'So because of this, O AhoLiBah, says Jehovah,
{Look!} I've awakened your lovers against you...
Yes, those to whom you once gave your soul.
And now, I will bring them against you,
So they will come and surround you...*

²³ *The sons of Babylon and Chaldeans
– Pekod, Shoa, and Koa –
Along with Assyria's sons,
And all their choicest young men...
Their governors, commanders, and tribunes,
And the famous ones who ride horses.*

²⁴ *'From the north, they'll all come against you,
With weapons and chariot wheels...
Many nations with chest plates, helmets, and shields.
They'll surround you and throw up a siege mound;
Then judgment, I'll put on their faces,
And you'll be punished by their (form of) justice.*

²⁵ *'Against you, I will show My zeal,
And I'll deal with you in My anger.
They'll cut off your nose and your ears,
And they'll cut up what's left with the sword.*

*'They'll take your sons and your daughters;
Then, all who remain will be burned.*

²⁶ *They'll strip off all of your clothes,
And remove all the things of which you are proud.*

²⁷ *'Your impious deeds, I'll remove,
And the bad things you practiced in Egypt.
To them, you'll not raise your eyes,
And you'll think of Egypt, no more.'*

²⁸ *'Jehovah says:
{Look!} I'll hand you to those who detest you
(Those to whom you've given your soul).*

²⁹ *Then they'll deal with you in their hatred,*

*And take all the things for which you've worked hard,
Leaving you naked and disgraced.
Your immoral shame, they'll uncover,
Including your irreverence and whoring.*

³⁰ *'They'll do all these things, because you're a whore,
Who defiled herself by thinking of them.*

³¹ *So, since you followed in your sister's ways,
I'll now put her cup in your hands.*

³² *'And Jehovah said:
You'll drink deeply from the cup of your sister,
And you'll drink so much that you'll laugh...
Then you'll sneer in your drunken condition.*

³³ *'From the cup of extinction, you will be filled,
And it will make you feel weak...
The same cup of Samaria, your sister.*

³⁴ *'You will drink and then you will vomit,
Shards of broken pots, you will eat,
And you will start pulling your breasts.*

*'I'll pervert your holiday feasts,
As well as all your New Moons...
Yes, I've said that I will pervert them, says Jehovah.'*

³⁵ *'Then Jehovah said:
Because you forgot Me and pushed Me aside,
You'll get what you're due for your whoring!'*

³⁶ *'And Jehovah said: O son of man;
Now, judge AhoLah and AhoLiBah!
Speak to them of their lawless ways...*

³⁷ *Of their adultery and the blood on their hands...
Why, even their thoughts are adulterous,
And they've led the children they bore Me through fire!*

³⁸ *'And as they did this against Me,
They defiled My holy things in that day,
And they profaned all My Sabbaths.*

³⁹ *'They [offered] their children to idols,
And they entered My Holy Place to profane it...
See what they did in the midst of My Temple!*

⁴⁰ *'Then, to those in far away lands,
They sent messengers and asked them to come.
And as they were coming, they bathed...
They decked themselves out and [painted] their eyes.*

⁴¹ *'Before a spread table, they sat on a bed,
And set before them, My incense and oil...*

Which these men found very delightful.

⁴² *'Then the sounds of harmony and music,
Was played before men who were drunk...
Men who'd just come from the desert.*

*'Upon all their hands, they placed bracelets,
And garlands of boasting, they put on their heads.*

⁴³ *'Though I told them that they must be [faithful];
In the ways of a whore, they [had sex].*

⁴⁴ *'So, they came and entered within them,
As a man would enter a whore...*

*They entered AhoLah and AhoLiBah...
Two lawless women who had lawless ways.*

⁴⁵ *'But because they are also just men,
They will punish them both,
With the punishment that's due an adulteress.
In justice, they'll pour out their blood,
For the adultery and blood on their hands.*

⁴⁶ *'Then Jehovah said:
Now, bring the multitudes against them...
Bring disturbance and ravaging upon them.*

⁴⁷ *'May the multitudes stone them with rocks,
And pierce them through with their swords!
Kill all their sons and their daughters,
And burn down all of their homes!*

⁴⁸ *'Their godless [lovers], I'll bring to this land,
In order to correct these two women,
So no way will they be godless again.*

⁴⁹ *'I'll bring their irreverence down on their heads,
And they'll bear their own sins and ideas.
Then they'll know that I am Jehovah!*

Chapter 24

¹ It was in the ninth year, in the tenth month, and on the tenth day of the month that the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² 'O son of man;
Write the name of this day for yourself,
Since, this is the day that Babylon's king,
Will have conquered JeruSalem...
Yes, this is that very day!

³ 'And say these words to that house in rebellion.
Tell them that thus says Jehovah:

'Prepare the pot... yes, ready the pot and fill it with water,

⁴ *Then, you must put in the pieces...
All the best pieces... the shoulder and leg;
Then, rip the flesh from the bones!*

⁵ *'Now the choicest of cattle are gathered,
So, start the fire to boil up the bones...
Boil and cook their bones in its midst.*

⁶ *'For their Sovereign Lord declared this:
O you city of blood;
There's a pot that is filled with her venom.
So, when they bring out her limbs,
[None] will choose her as their portion.*

⁷ *'Upon a rock, her blood was poured out...
But I wouldn't let it be poured on the ground,
Or to be covered by dirt.*

⁸ *'For I punished her in My rage...
And I poured her blood on a rock,
So [no one] could cover it over.*

⁹ *'Because of this, said Jehovah;
Woe to you, O city of blood,
For your funeral pyre will be great.*

¹⁰ *'I'll add much wood and kindle a fire,
To melt away all the meat.
And then, to render a broth,
The bones will have to be stewed.*

¹¹ *'It'll sit on the coals until it burns through,
And all her brass ornaments melt...
Until her uncleanness [is gone],
And all of her venom has failed...*

¹² *Until little venom remains.*

¹³ *'The venom of her filth, I will disgrace,
Until it is all boiled away.
You dirtied yourself and wouldn't get clean...
Thus, you will never be clean,
Until My rage on you is complete.*

¹⁴ *'For, I Jehovah, have spoken...
I'll do it and I'll make it happen!
I'll not warn you or show any mercy,
Nor will I offer you comfort.*

*'By your thoughts and deeds, I will judge you.
Yes, that's how you will be judged, says Jehovah.'*

¹⁵ *Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said:*

¹⁶ *'O son of man;*

{Look!} With just one blow, I'll now take away,
[The woman] you've treasured most dearly.

'Yet, you must not show any sorrow...

¹⁷ You must do all your moaning in silence...

Over her, you must quietly groan,
And you may not wail at her grave.

'Don't take off your sandals or braid your hair,
Nor let them offer you comfort...

And don't eat the [food] that they bring.'

¹⁸ Then the next morning I told the people what he said to me; and that evening, my wife died. So the [next] morning I did as I was instructed. ¹⁹ And the people asked me: 'Won't you explain to us why you're doing the things that you're doing?'

²⁰ And I told them that the Word of the Lord had come to me and said,

²¹ 'Speak to the house of IsraEl,

And tell them that thus says Jehovah:

{Look!} My Holy Place, I'll profane...

That wonderful place about which you neigh,

And the thing that your eyes have desired.

'Now, in order to save your own lives,

You'll have to abandon your daughters and sons...

For, they will all fall by the sword.

²² *'Then you'll also do what I'm doing;*

You won't take comfort from anyone's mouth,

Or eat from the bread of mankind!

²³ *'Your hair will remain on your heads,*

And your feet will be wearing sandals.

You won't lament or be crying...

You'll melt away in your sins,

And no one will comfort his brother!

²⁴ *'EzekiEl will serve as an omen and sign;*

For, all that he says, you will do.

And after these things have all happened,

You'll know that I am Jehovah.

²⁵ '[Then He said]:

And as for you, O son of man;

That's how it will be in the day,

When I take away all their strength,

And the things about which they boast...

The desirable things of their eyes...

Yes, their sons and their daughters

(Those in whom their souls take most pride).

²⁶ *'Then, those who escape in that day,*

Will come and tell you what happened.

²⁷ *And in that day, you'll open your mouth,*

Then speak to those who've escaped...

Yes, you'll speak and not be mute anymore...

You'll explain how you were a sign,

And they'll know that I am Jehovah.'

Chapter 25

¹ Then the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² 'O son of man;

Against AmMon's sons, now set your face,

[And speak] this prophesy against them!

³ Tell the sons of AmMon to listen,

And hear the Word of the Lord.

For, Jehovah said this:

'Because you were [filled with] rejoicing,

⁴ *When My Holy Place was being profaned,*

And the land of IsraEl was being destroyed,

And the house of Judah was led off as captives;

⁴ *Look! It's for all of these reasons,*

To the sons of Kedem, I'll hand you...

And their inheritance, you will become.

'They'll camp among you as [masters],

And spread their tents in your midst;

Then they'll drink your fatness and eat all your fruit!

⁵ *'I'll give them the cities of AmMon,*

To serve as pastures for all their sheep...

And I'll also give them your camels.

Then you'll know that I am Jehovah.'

⁶ 'Jehovah says:

You clapped your hands and stamped your feet...

You rejoiced over IsraEl's fall.

⁷ *And because of this, {Look!} I'll stretch out My hand,*

And appoint you to be ravaged by the nations.

'I'll destroy you out of the peoples...

I'll destroy you out of your regions,

And you'll know that I am Jehovah.

⁸ 'Jehovah says:

Because Moab and Seir have proclaimed:

{Look!} The house of Judah is just like the gentiles;

⁹ *For this, I'll injure the shoulder of Moab...*

The cities at the edge [of his land];

The choicest parts of BethJeshiMoth

(The city of springs by the sea).

¹⁰ *'To Kedem's sons, I'll give AmMon,
To be an inheritance among them,
So the nations will forget AmMon's sons.*

¹¹ *And in Moab, I will also wreak vengeance,
So they'll know that I am Jehovah.*

¹² *'And Jehovah says:
Since Edom was very resentful,
And sought vengeance upon Judah's house,
By bringing punishment on them...*

¹³ *Yes, because of this, says Jehovah;
I'll stretch out My hand against Edom,
And from man to beast, destroy all.
I will make [their land] desolation,
And from Teman to Ledan, those being chased,
Will all fall by the broadsword.*

¹⁴ *'Against Edom's land, I'll bring vengeance,
At the hands of IsraEl, My people.
They'll deal with Edom as My rage demands,
And in the ways of My anger.
Then, they will know of My vengeance, says Jehovah.*

¹⁵ *'And because of this, says Jehovah;
Because the Philistines took vengeance,
And they rejoiced in their souls,
When they wiped [My people] away through the age;*

¹⁶ *Yes, because of this, says Jehovah;
{Look!} Against the Philistines, I'll stretch out My hand,
And their Cherethim I'll destroy,
As well as those who remain on the coast.*

¹⁷ *'Against them, I will bring vengeance,
With the rebukes of My rage.
Then they'll know that I am Jehovah,
When I bring My vengeance upon them.'*

Chapter 26

¹ It was in the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, that the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² *'O son of man;
Tyre has said this of JeruSalem:
Well done, because she's now broken!
For, she had destroyed many nations,
And then, she turned her attention toward me.
But this one that once was so full,
Has now become desolation.*

³ *'Because of this, said Jehovah,*

*{Look!} I am against you, O Rock,
And I'll bring so many nations against you,
That they'll be like the waves of the sea.*

*⁴ The walls of Tyre, they'll tear down,
And then, they will knock down her towers.
I'll scatter her dust to the [four] winds,
Leaving her like a smooth rock...*

*⁵ A place where they will dry fish nets.
For, I have spoken against her, says Jehovah.*

*'She'll become a place that nations will loot,
⁶ And her daughters in the plains will be cut down by swords;
Then they'll know that I am Jehovah.*

*⁷ And then Jehovah said this:
O Tyre;*

*I'll bring NebuChadNezzar out of the north
(Yes, this king of all kings)
With his cavalry, chariots, and horses,
And his army of many great nations.*

*⁸ Then he'll use the sword to destroy
Your daughter who lives in the plains.*

*'Against you, he'll send advance guards,
Who'll surround you and then they'll dig trenches.
He'll close you in with a siege mound,
And arrange it with lances and shields,
⁹ Then demolish your towers and walls,
And he'll destroy [all your] weapons.*

*¹⁰ 'You'll be covered by the dust of his horses,
And from the sounds of his horsemen and chariot wheels,
All your walls will be shaken.
Then, when he enters your gates,
It'll be like a [walk through] the plains.*

*¹¹ 'His horse's hooves will trample your squares,
And [his men] will kill all your people with swords...
They'll bring your supports and strength to the ground.*

*¹² 'Then, they will plunder your army;
They'll take all your things, then tear down your walls,
And demolish all the best of your homes.
Then they'll throw your stones and your wood,
As well as your dust, into the sea.*

*¹³ 'He'll rip away all your musicians,
And the sounds of strings will no longer be heard.*

*¹⁴ He will make you like a smooth rock,
And a place for the drying of dragnets.*

*There's no way that you'll be rebuilt,
For I Jehovah have spoken, said the Lord.*

¹⁵ *'Then Jehovah asked this of Tyre:
When their swords are unsheathed in your midst;
Won't the sound of your downfall,
As well as the moans of your wounded,
Rumble all the way to the islands?*

¹⁶ *'The rulers in the seas will step from their thrones,
Then remove their crowns and colorful robes,
Because they'll be startled by this change of state,
And they'll sit in fear of their coming destruction,
As they are moaning for you.*

¹⁷ *And they will [sing] this lament:*

*'O how great has been her destruction.
For she were removed from her place by the sea,
Along with all of [her people],
By the one who brought fear upon them.*

*'You're a city that once was so blest,
And who got her strength from the sea.*

¹⁸ *But now, all the islands are living in fear,
For since the day of your downfall,
All those on the islands have worried.'*

¹⁹ *'Then the Lord Jehovah said this:
I'll bring desolation to your cities,
And leave them without any people...
And by the waters of the deep, they'll be covered.*

²⁰ *'I will drag both you and your people,
Into the pit through the age.
I'll settle you into the depths of the earth,
As a desolate place through the ages,
Along with the rest who've gone down to the pit.*

*'In the land of the living, you'll no longer be;
²¹ For I'll appointed you to be wiped away.
So you won't exist anymore...
They'll look for you and not find you, says Jehovah.'*

Chapter 27

¹ Then the Word of The Lord came to me and said:

² 'And you, O son of man;
Speak this lament over Tyre.

³ 'You must say to the Rock
(This city that dwells by the sea...
The marketplace of all the islands),

That thus says Jehovah to Tyre:

'You say you've invested in beauty;

*⁴ For the heart of the sea is your border,
And your sons have perfected your charms.*

*⁵ 'Cedar was [the wood] with which you were built,
Along with Lebanon's cypress.*

With posts of fir, your ship masts were built;

⁶ And in Bashan, they made all your oars.

*'Your temples are constructed of ivory,
And your houses are made out of wood,
That came from the Island of Cyprus.*

*⁷ 'Embroidered linens from Egypt,
Serve as your sails and your flags.*

*And from the island of Aeolis
You received the purple and blue,
With which you made the clothes that you wore.*

*⁸ 'The princes of Sidon and Arvad,
Came and served as your oarsmen;
And their wisest of men,
Became your navigators, O Rock.*

*⁹ 'The elders among you were scholars,
Who grew in their powers to direct you.
And all ships of the sea and their oarsmen,
Came to you from the west.*

*¹⁰ 'Your warriors were Lydians and Persians,
Who hung their helmets and shields among you,
And they also brought you much glory.*

*¹¹ Arvad's sons were the soldiers,
Who were stationed around all your walls,
As Medes served in your guard towers...
They hung their quivers on your moorings,
And they perfected your beauty.*

*¹² 'Men from Carthage were also your merchants,
Who brought you abundance and strength,
With silver, gold, iron, and brass,
And the tin and lead that they sold in your stores.*

*¹³ 'The Greeks and the rest of the world
(Those from far away lands),
Traded their slaves [in your streets],
Along with the brass that they sold.*

*¹⁴ 'From the house of ToGarmah, came horses...
Horsemen and mules they brought to your stores.*

¹⁵ *'Sons of Rhodes were also your merchants...
From the islands, they brought you much trade.
And those who brought you your ivory,
Were paid with earnings from [slaves],
¹⁶ And with your great stores of balsam,
Along with your linen and purple cloth,
As well as colored works out of Carthage,
Plus things from RamOth and ChoHor...
Yes, all these things were sold in your markets.*

¹⁷ *'Judah and IsraEl were your merchants,
In the sales of grain and perfumes,
As well as the finest of honey,
And the olive oil and the lotions,
Which they brought to your stores.*

¹⁸ *'Damascus traded in all of your wares,
And [they shared in] your power.
For they brought fine wines in from Helbon,
And the best of wool from Miletus.*

¹⁹ *'Dan, and Javan, as well as MoOzel,
Brought their iron to your markets...
They a added many tools and wheels to your stores.*

²⁰ *'Dedan too, was your merchant,
Providing the choicest of saddles.*

²¹ *'Arabia and the rulers of Cyprus,
Were merchants trading camels through your hands,
As well as the lambs and rams that they sold.*

²² *'Your merchants were Sheba and RamAh;
Yes, these were also your traders,
Bringing choice spices and most precious gems,
As well as gold to your markets.*

²³ *'Haran, CanNeh, and Edem,
Were also those who traded with you,
As were Assyria, ChilMad, and Sheba,
²⁴ Who brought blue [cloth] and great treasures,
In [boxes of] cypress bound in rough cords.*

²⁵ *'Your boats also served as your merchants,
For they carried an abundance of things to your stores...
They were filled and weighed down in the seas.*

²⁶ *'Your oarsmen brought all these things,
As [their boats were blown] by the winds from the south...
Breaking through the heart of the sea.*

²⁷ *'But your armies, your wages, and stores;*

*Your counselors, navigators, and oarsmen;
Your goods that came from your stores,
And all the warriors among you
(Those who have gathered within you),
Will be thrown into the heart of the sea,
In the day of your downfall.*

²⁸ *'Those who navigate will be shaken,
By the sounds of your outcries,
And they'll be overcome with great fear.*

²⁹ *'Your oarsmen will abandon their boats,
And their captains and crews will flee to dry ground.*

³⁰ *'Then, over you, they'll shout loudly;
Yes, over you, they'll bitterly cry.
Upon their heads, they'll throw dirt,
And spread ashes as beds for themselves.*

³¹ *'They'll shave their heads and wear sackcloth,
And bitterly weep over you.*

³² *'Their sons will also lament you,
And they'll wail for The Rock as they ask:
Who is as silent as Tyre,
There in the midst of the sea?*

³³ *'How much wealth did you gain from the sea?
Why, nations are filled with the goods that you've sold,
And their kings have been enriched by your stores.*

³⁴ *'But, there in the sea, you'll lie broken,
As your stores are sunk in deep waters.
For those who gathered there [will be taken away],
Along with all of your oarsmen.*

³⁵ *'There'll be gloom in the islands for you...
Their kings will be startled and amazed,
Then, tears will burst from their faces.*

³⁶ *'Merchants from the nations will whistle at you,
For you [will soon be] destroyed...
You'll be no more through the age.'*

Chapter 28

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said,

² 'And you, O son of man;

Say this to the ruler of Tyre!

Tell him that thus says Jehovah:

'You have made your heart haughty,

And you said that you are a God,

For you dwell among the gods of the seas!

*Yet, you're just a man, not a god,
Though you made your heart as that of a god.*

³ *'Are you someone who's wiser than DaniEl...
Didn't the wise teach you wisdom?*

⁴ *Which was it; intelligence or wisdom,
That brought you all of your power,
And your treasures of silver and gold?*

⁵ *Or was it the strength of your trading or wisdom,
That gave you your power and made your heart proud?*

⁶ *'It's because of this, says Jehovah...
Since you made your heart as that of a God;
{Look!} Strange pests from the nations, I'm bringing to you,
⁷ And they'll empty their swords out against you...
Against all the beauty of your wisdom,
And your beauty, they'll spread to destruction.*

⁸ *'Yes, they will soon cut you down,
And you'll die the death of the slain,
There in the heart of the sea.*

⁹ *'Will you say you're a god to those who bring death?
No, you'll be just a man, not a god,
In the hands of those who will stab you.*

¹⁰ *'You'll die among the uncircumcised,
At the hands of those who are strangers.
For, this is what I've decreed, says Jehovah.'*

¹¹ *And the Word of the Lord came to me and said,*

¹² *'O son of man;
Speak this lament to the ruler of Tyre.
Tell him that thus says Jehovah:*

*'Yours is the image on a seal,
Depicted as someone who's wise,
And wearing a beautiful crown.*

¹³ *'You live in the paradise of gods,
And every precious gem, you have owned...
Sardius, topaz, and emeralds;
Onyx, sapphires, and jaspers;
Silver, gold, amber, and agates;
Chrysolites, Amethysts, and beryls.*

*'Your treasuries are filled with onyx and gold,
And it's also found in your stores.*

¹⁴ *'From the day that you were created,
A cherub was chosen on your behalf,
Since you were anointed by God,*

*And you were allowed to dwell in [His] Tent.
On God's Holy Mountain, I set you,
And among stones of fire, you existed.*

¹⁵ *'Back in your days, you were perfect...
From the day that you were created,
Until you had been found guilty.*

¹⁶ *'From the abundance of your trade, your storerooms were filled,
Then you became lawless and sinned.
So, you were removed from the mountain of God
(From among [those great] stones of fire),
And your cherub was taken away.*

¹⁷ *'Because of your beauty, your heart became proud...
Sins corrupted your wisdom and beauty.
So I tossed you down to the ground,
To be an example to [others].*

¹⁸ *'Because of your many sins,
And the ways you have failed in your trading,
You have profaned all your temples.
So, I will send fire into your midst...
I'll burn you and turn you to ashes,
And this will be witnessed by all.*

¹⁹ *'Then the nations will all be sad over you,
For, you'll be destroyed and lost through the age.'*

²⁰ *And the Word of the Lord came to me and said,*

²¹ *'O son of man;*

*Now, fix your face against Sidon,
And against it, you must now prophesy!*

²² *Tell them that thus says Jehovah:*

*'{Look!} I am against you, O Sidon,
And by you, I'll be glorified;
For you'll know that I am Jehovah,
When I bring My judgments against you...
And then, I'll be holy among you.*

²³ *'Against you, I'll send death and blood,
And your people will fall in your squares,
As the men among you (those closest to you),
Will all be wounded by swords...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

²⁴ *'IsraEl's house will no longer be...
Yes that bitter barb and thorn of great grief.
And all of those who'll surround them
(Those who will bring them dishonor),
Will know that I am Jehovah.'*

²⁵ 'Jehovah says:

*Then the house of IsraEl, I'll regather,
From among the nations where they'll be dispersed,
And I will be holy among them,
Before all the peoples and nations.*

*'Then, they will live in the land
That I gave to My servant, Jacob.*

²⁶ *There, they'll plant vineyards and there they'll build homes;
Yes, they will dwell there in hope,
When I bring My judgments upon those,
By whom they had been abused
– All those who were living around them –
And they'll know that I am Jehovah, their God,
As well as the God of their fathers.'*

Chapter 29

¹ It was in the tenth year, on the first day of the tenth month, that the Word of the Lord came to me and said,

² 'O son of man;

Fix your face against Egypt's King Pharaoh...
Against Egypt and him, you must now prophesy!

³ Tell him that thus says Jehovah:

*'{Look!} I am against you, O Pharaoh,
The great dragon who waits between rivers...
The One who says, The rivers are mine...
Yes, they were created for me!*

⁴ *'Now, into your jaws, I'll put hooks,
And to your wings, I'll stick the fish from your rivers.
Then I'll lead you up from the midst of your rivers,
And remove the scales from those fish,
⁵ Before I throw you down with your fish.*

*'On the face of the plains, I will throw you;
Then, you'll be collected and not be [thrown back].
To the beasts of the earth, you'll be fed,
As well as to the birds in the skies.
⁶ And those who are living in Egypt,
Will know that I am Jehovah.*

*'For, to the house of IsraEl, you've proven to be,
Just a reed, not a rod;*

⁷ *Since you broke when they grabbed onto you with their hands.
Then, by every hand, they were beaten,
Because they [had trusted] in you...
Yes, because you broke [in their hands],
The nations have shattered their loins.*

⁸ *'And because of this, says Jehovah;
{Look!} I'll bring the broadsword upon you,
To destroy your people and all of their cattle.*

⁹ *'Then the land of Egypt, I will appoint,
To be wiped out and destroyed...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.
[I'll do this], because you once said,
All the rivers are mine...
They were created for me!*

¹⁰ *'{Look!} I'm against both you your rivers,
So, I will now hand over Egypt
To be destroyed by the broadsword,
From Migdol on to SyEne,
And on to Ethiopia's borders.*

¹¹ *'Neither man nor beast will travel that way...
No way will any walk through it;
And for forty years, no one will live there.*

¹² *'I'll appoint her land to destruction,
And the ground will lie fallow and barren.
All her cities will be empty...
For forty years, they'll all be extinct.
I'll scatter the Egyptians among all the nations...
To many places, I'll [blow] them away.'*

¹³ *'Jehovah says:
Then, after forty years, I'll gather them back,
From the nations where they'd been dispersed;*

¹⁴ *'I'll return all the captured Egyptians,
And resettle them back in their lands
(Those from which they were taken),
And there, they must humbly submit.*

¹⁵ *'Then, her rule will have ended,
And she'll not be the highest of nations again.
For I'll cause them to be very few,
And [uncounted] among other nations.*

¹⁶ *'So you'll never again be IsraEl's hope;
And they'll be reminded that it had been wrong,
For them to put trust in you...
And they'll know that I am Jehovah.'*

¹⁷ Well, it was in the twenty-seventh year, on the first day of the first month, that the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

¹⁸ *'O son of man;
Because of Tyre, King NebuChadNazzar,
Has reduced his army to slaves.*

*For, all their heads are now bald,
And their shoulders are covered with falling hair,
Because of his army's attack against Tyre,
And the work that they've done without pay.*

¹⁹ *'Because of this, says Jehovah;
So to Babylon's King NebuChadNezzar,
I will hand over Egypt.
Then, he will loot and plunder her spoils,
And pay it to his army, as their reward.*

²⁰ *'In return for his work against Tyre,
I'll give the land of Egypt to him...
Because of the things that he's done for Me, says Jehovah.*

²¹ *'In that day, a horn will arise,
Before the house of IsraEl,
And I'll send an opened mouth in their midst,
So they'll know that I am Jehovah.'*

Chapter 30

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said,

² 'O son of man; you must now prophesy and tell them that thus says Jehovah:

*'The day is near...³ Jehovah's Day has approached...
Yes the dark day of the Lord,
And the time of the nations!*

⁴ *For, swords will come against Egypt,
And Ethiopia will now be disturbed.*

*'Egyptians will be falling and slain,
And her abundance will be carried away...
They'll rip her down to her foundations!*

⁵ *'Lydians, Persians, and Cretans;
Libyans, Ethiopians, and mixed other peoples,
Will fall with My Covenant people,⁶ says Jehovah.
For the supporters of Egypt will fall,
Along with the insolence of her strength.*

*'From Migdol to Syene, they'll fall by the sword,
⁷ And lie desolate amidst wiped-out places,
As the cities in her midst are destroyed.*

⁸ *'Then they'll know that I am Jehovah,
When I bring fire against Egypt,
And all those who helped her are broken.*

⁹ *'In that day;
Messengers will arrive in a hurry,
And destroy any hope that Ethiopia had.
In that day, there'll be disturbance in Egypt...*

And look, it has already happened!

¹⁰ *'Jehovah says:*

*I'll destroy many Egyptians,
By the hand of King NebuChadNezzar.*

¹¹ *For, he and all of his people,
And the pestilent ones from the nations,
Are being sent to destroy the whole land.*

*'They'll empty their swords against Egypt,
And fill its land with the slain.*

¹² *Then I'll desolate all its rivers,
And give their lands to the wicked.*

*'I'll wipe their land clean and empty it out,
Then give its fullness to strangers.
For I am Jehovah, and I have declared that it's so!*

¹³ *'Jehovah God says:*

*Their disgusting things, I'll destroy.
And to the [gods] of Memphis, I'll provide rest,
For the rulers of Egypt won't be anymore.*

¹⁴ *'To the land of Egypt, I will send fear,
And the land of Pathros, I will destroy.
To Tanis, I will bring fire,
And I'll punish The City of Gods.*

¹⁵ *'I'll pour out My rage upon Sin,
Which is the stronghold of Egypt.
And the crowds of Memphis, I will destroy.*

¹⁶ *'Upon Egypt, I will send fire
And to Sin, I'll send a disturbance.
On The City of Gods, I will spit,
And I'll take away all of its water.*

¹⁷ *'The young men of the City of the Sun,
As well as those in BuBastum,*

¹⁸ *Will all fall by the broadsword,
And their women will be taken as slaves.*

¹⁸ *'In TahPanHes, the days will grow dark,
When I break the chiefdoms of Egypt.
Then the strength of her insolence will all be removed,
And she will be covered by clouds,
As her daughters are led off as captives.*

¹⁹ *'On Egypt, I will bring judgment,
And they'll know that I am Jehovah.'*

²⁰ *Well, it was in the eleventh year, in the first month and on the seventh day of the month
that the Word of the Lord came to me and said:*

²¹ 'O son of man;
I will break Pharaoh's arms,
{Look!} And for ways to heal him, they'll search.
Upon his wounds, they'll wrap dressings,
So he'll be able to carry his sword.

²² 'But because of this, says Jehovah;
{Look!} Since I'm against Egypt's King Pharaoh,
I will break his strong arms
(Including the one that's been broken),
And tear his sword from his hand.

²³ 'Then among all nations, I'll scatter Egyptians ...
To many places, I'll blow them away.

²⁴ 'But I'll strengthen the arms of Babylon's king,
And put My sword in his hand.
Then, he will use it on Egypt...
He'll loot her loot and despoil all her spoils.

²⁵ 'I'll strengthen the arms of Babylon's king,
And the arms of Pharaoh will fall.
Then they'll know that I am Jehovah,
When I give My sword to Babylon's king,
And he lifts it against Egypt's land.

²⁶ 'I'll scatter Egyptians among all the nations ...
To many places, I'll blow them away,
And they'll know that I am Jehovah.'

Chapter 31

¹ It was in the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, that the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² 'O son of man;
Ask Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) and his armies:
'When it comes to being high minded,
Who other is equal to you?

³ '{Look!} Assyria is like Lebanon's cypress,
For, it had many dense branches,
It was also protected and stood very tall,
And amidst the clouds, stood its top.

⁴ By waters from the deep, it was nourished,
And as the result, it grew tall.

'To the plants around him, a river was led...
She poured her waters on the trees in his fields,

⁵ And because of this, he grew even greater,
Than all the other trees on the earth.

'He had more branches and much taller shoots,

And over many waters, he stretched.

⁶ Among his boughs sat the birds of the skies;
Beneath his limbs bred the beasts of the plains;
And many nations dwelled in his shadow.

⁷ 'He became great in his height,
Because of his tender branches,
And his roots that reached down to the water.

⁸ 'In God's paradise, no others were like him...
No pines could be compared to his shoots;
No firs had branches like his;
And there in the paradise of God,
None were compared to his beauty.

⁹ 'I'm the one who made him so great,
And who gave him all his tender branches.
So the rest of the trees in paradise,
Soon became jealous of him...
The rest of those trees in the garden,
That were the delight of [Jehovah].

¹⁰ 'Because of this,' said the Lord...
'Because he grew great in his greatness,
And put his tops high up in the clouds
(As he lifted his heart to the heights);
¹¹ I gave him to those who rule other nations,
And they brought about his destruction.

¹² 'By strangers, he was cut to the ground...
Yes, pestilent ones from the nations,
Threw him down on the mountains,
And in the ravines, fell his branches,
As his [wood was strewn] 'cross the plains.

'He had fallen from his high position,
As the peoples' protector...
All the nations had cut him down to the ground.

¹³ 'So that place where the birds of the skies once found rest,
And under whose trunk the beasts had once lived,
Has [been brought down] to the ground.

¹⁴ 'So the trees next to him lost their greatness
(Those trees that stood by his water)...
They no longer put their tops in the clouds...
Yes, those who were drinking the water,
No longer stood tall in his [presence].

'They were all handed over to death,
And [were sent] to the depths of the ground...
Among sons of men, they went down to the pit.'

¹⁵ 'And thus says Jehovah, the Lord:
*In that day, he went down to the place of the dead,
And in the abyss, he was mourned.*

*'Then I took control of the river,
And withheld its abundance of water.
Lebanon then shadowed above him,
And all the trees of the plains became weak.*

¹⁶ *'From the sound of his downfall, the nations all shook,
When I brought him down to the place of the dead,
Along with those who go into the pit.*

*'And there in the bowels of the earth,
All the trees on the earth offered comfort...
All the select and best trees...
Those choice ones of Lebanon that shared in his water.*

¹⁷ *'With him, they went into the grave
(Those who were slain by the sword).
And the seed of those whom he sheltered,
Were destroyed in the midst of their lives.*

¹⁸ *'To whom can you liken such power,
As well as the glory and greatness,
Among all the choicest of trees?*

*'Go down with the choicest of trees,
Into the depths of the ground,
Where you'll sleep among the uncircumcised...
Among those who were slain by the sword.*

*'This is what will happen to PharaOh,
And to all of [his allies], said Jehovah.'*

Chapter 32

¹ It was in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, and on the first day of the month that the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² 'O son of man;
Sing this lament over PharaOh (king of Egypt) ...
Yes, you must sing this about him:

*'A lion among nations, you [think of yourself].
But you're just the beast of the sea.
For, from the midst your rivers, you've gored,
Where you've stamped your feet and you've trampled,
And this [has muddied] your waters.'*

³ Then the Lord said:
*'So, by an assembly of peoples,
Around you, My net will be thrown;
And then, I'll lead you around with My hook.*

⁴ *I will stretch you out on the ground,
And you will fill all the plains.
Upon you, I'll set the birds of the skies,
And use you to fill the wild beasts of the ground.*

⁵ *I'll spread your flesh on the mountains,
And fill the ravines with your blood.*

⁶ *With your manure, I'll cover the land...
And with those who are living within you,
I'll fill the valleys and fields.*

⁷ *Then, after you are exhausted,
I will cover the skies...
Yes, I will darken the stars...
With clouds, I will cover the sun and the moon,
And no way will your light be able to shine.*

⁸ *The lights that shine in the skies,
Will all become dark over you;
Yes, over your land, I'll send darkness,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

⁹ *To the hearts of the peoples, I will bring rage,
When, before them, you're led as a captive,
Into a land that you've never known.*

¹⁰ *Many nations will then be sad over you...
Their kings will be stunned and amazed,
As they also await their own downfall,
Which will come to them after that.'*

¹¹ *Then the Lord Jehovah said:
Yes, the broadsword of Babylon's king,
Will come upon them thereafter.*

¹² *With the swords of giants, you will be cut down,
And to the pests of all nations, I'll then give your strength.
They'll destroy the insolence of Egypt,
And they will break down her power.*

¹³ *Then, I will destroy all the cattle,
[That graze] around her great waters,
So men's feet will no longer stomp in [the Nile],
Nor will cattle trample in it again.*

¹⁴ *Then, all of your waters will be stilled;
For your rivers will pour out like oil, says Jehovah.*

¹⁵ *When I bring destruction on Egypt,
The fullness of the land will be [gone].
And after I scatter [your people],
They'll know that I am Jehovah.*

¹⁶ *'Then they'll [sing] a lament over her...
Over Egypt, the nations' daughters will [cry]...
The loss of her strength, they'll lament,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.'*

¹⁷ Well, it was in the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, that the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

¹⁸ 'O son of man;
Lament for the multitudes of Egypt,
Since her daughters will be defiled by the nations,
And [there'll be] death throughout their whole land.

'Then, they will go into the pit...

¹⁹ From their beautiful waters, they will descend,
To sleep among the uncircumcised!

²⁰ 'With [Pharaoh] and his strength, they will fall,
Among those who'll be slain by the sword.

²¹ And the giants of the earth will then say:
*It's best that you're now in the pit.
So go down among the uncircumcised,
And sleep in the midst of those slain by the sword.*

²² 'Why, there is Assyria and all of his crowd...
Around his grave, they're all standing...
All the slain who were felled by the sword...

²³ Yes, all with whom he now shares his grave,
Along the sides of the pit,
And all of the crowd surrounding his tomb...
All of the slain who were cut down by swords...
Those who once brought great fear,
To the land of the living.

²⁴ 'And there is Elam with his army...
Around his tomb, they [are standing],
Along with all of the uncircumcised,
Who had been felled by the sword.
[They went] to the depths of the ground,
At the hands of those who brought fear,
Back in the land of the living.

²⁵ 'They accepted their torment with those in the pit
(In the midst of those who were slaughtered).

²⁶ It's where they put Mosoch and Tubal,
Along with all of their strength.

'These slain ones are standing next to his tomb,
Along with uncircumcised dead,
All of whom had been killed with the sword...
Those who'd once brought great fear,

To the land of the living.

²⁷ 'Now they sleep with the giants,
Who, throughout the ages, have fallen;
They went to the land of the dead,
With all their weapons of war.

'Their swords were placed under their heads,
And their lawless deeds fell on their bones;
For, they were just frightened giants,
Back when they were alive.

²⁸ Now, with the uncircumcised, they've been destroyed,
And they'll sleep with the rest who were slain by the sword.

²⁹ 'And there is Edem with all of her kings,
Along with Assyria's rulers...
Those who gave up their strength,
And then, were run through by swords.
They too now sleep with the slain,
Who have gone down to the pit.

³⁰ 'There are also the rulers from the far north
– All these, and Assyria's generals –
Who have gone down with the slain,
And who've shared with them in their fear.

'Because their strength has been shamed,
They sleep among the uncircumcised.
And along with the rest who were slain by the sword,
They carried their torment into the pit.

³¹ '*This is where they'll see Egypt's King PharaOh,
And they will find comfort in this.
For, PharaOh and his armies will also be killed,*
Says Jehovah, the Lord.

³² '*In the land of the living, I'm sending him fear;
For he'll sleep among the uncircumcised,
Along with those slain by the sword...
Yes, PharaOh and all of his crowd,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.'*

Chapter 33

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said,

² 'O son of man;

Speak to the sons of your people,
And this is what you should tell them:

*'To whichever land that I bring the sword;
The people of that country should then choose a man,
And assign him to act as their watchman.*

³ *And when he sees the sword approaching their land,
He should blow his trumpet as a warning.*

⁴ *'Then, after they hear the sound of the horn;
If they should refuse to prepare,
And the broadsword then overtakes them,
Their blood will be upon their own heads.*

⁵ *'So, when they hear trumpet blasts,
They should [quickly] prepare,
Or their blood will be on themselves,
While the one who kept watch on their souls will be saved.*

⁶ *'Now, if the lookout should see the sword coming,
And fail to blow trumpet blasts,
So the people aren't prepared for the coming of the sword;
This watchman must then be taken away,
Because of the lawless [thing that he did] ...
And I'll require his blood by their hands.*

⁷ *'And you, O son of man...
You're the watchman whom I have appointed,
Over the house of IsraEl.
So, whenever you hear a word from my mouth,
You must announce it on my behalf.*

⁸ *'And when I say that a sinner will die,
And you fail to speak out and warn him;
For his lawless deeds, he will die,
But I'll require his blood from your hands.*

⁹ *'But if you should warn an irreverent man,
And tell him to turn from [his evil] ways,
But he refuses to make any change;
For his bad ways, he will die...
But you will have saved your own life.*

¹⁰ *'Now, O son of man;
Say this to the house of IsraEl...
Tell them that they have been asking:
*Since we are the ones who're to blame,
For our delusions and our lawless deeds;
If we should turn from them now,
Can we still [save our] lives?**

¹¹ *'Speak to them and give this reply:
As I live, says Jehovah;
I don't want the death of the godless.
[I want them] to turn from their [lawless] ways,
So they can continue to live...
But first, you must turn away,*

*From the bad things that you're doing...
Why must you die, O house of IsraEl?*

¹² 'And you, O son of man;
Say this to the sons of your people:
*The good things that the righteous have done,
Won't save them in the day that they turn away.
And the blame that the lawless are due,
Won't come to them in the day
That they turn from their godless ways.
And no way will the righteous will be saved,
In the day that they are found sinning.*

¹³ 'So, when I say that the righteous will live,
And they come to rely upon this...
But then, they [do what is] evil;
Their righteous ways will all be forgotten...
For the sins they commit, they will die!

¹⁴ 'And when I say that the godless will die,
And then, they turn from their sins,
And start being righteous and fair...
¹⁵ If they give back the collateral they've taken,
And pay back all that they've seized...
If they'll travel an orderly life,
And no longer [follow] wrong [paths]...
They will then receive life...
No way will they have to die...

¹⁶ Their sins will all be forgotten.
For making their ways righteous and fair,
I will then spare their lives!

¹⁷ 'And if the sons of your people should say,
The ways of Jehovah aren't right,
When it's really their ways that aren't right,
¹⁸ And the righteous then turn from their righteous ways,
And start to do what is lawless...
They will die [for their sins].

¹⁹ But, if you turn back a sinner,
And he becomes fair and righteous, he'll live!

²⁰ 'Now, you're saying that the ways of Jehovah aren't straight!
However, O house of IsraEl;
I'll judge each man by the things that he does!'

²¹ It was in the twelfth year, in the tenth month, and on the fifth day of the month from our captivity, that someone who had escaped from JeruSalem came and told me that the city had been captured. ²² Then the hand of the Lord came over me that evening. However, before that (earlier in the morning), he came and opened my mouth so that my mouth couldn't stay closed any longer. ²³ For the Word of the Lord came to me and said this:

²⁴ 'O son of man;
Those who live in the places that are being destroyed,
In the land of IsraEl, are saying,
*Back in AbraHam's time,
He was given this land;
And now that we've become many,
We've also been given this land as our own.*

²⁵ 'Because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah their Lord:
*Since you eat blood in your food,
And to disgusting things, lift your eyes,
And you shed [innocent] blood;
Why do you think that you'll inherit this land?*

²⁶ 'For, there you stand with your broadswords,
*As you're doing things that are loathsome!
You profane the lives of your neighbors' wives...
And you think that you will inherit this land?*

²⁷ 'Tell them that the Lord Jehovah says this:
*As I live;
Those who dwell in the places that are being destroyed,
Will all fall by the broadsword;
While those who flee to the plains,
Will be given as food to wild beasts;
And those who hide behind walls and in caves,
Will all die from a plague.*

²⁸ 'Then I'll turn their land into a desert,
*And the strength of her insolence will perish.
I'll devastate IsraEl's mountains,
So that none will pass through them thereafter.*

²⁹ 'Then they'll know that I am Jehovah,
*When I turn their land into a desert,
For the disgusting things that they're doing.*

³⁰ 'O son of man;
The sons of your people are talking about you,
Along the walls and in the gatehouses,
As well as inside of their homes.
Each one is saying this to his brother:
*We should all gather and listen,
To what Jehovah has planned.*

³¹ 'So, when they all come to see you,
And they sit down before you,
To hear the things that you'll say;
There's no way that they'll do [what you tell them]!
For the lie is still in their mouths,

And they follow the disgusting ways of their hearts.

³² 'So, if you should be the sound of a harp
(A sound that is sweet and well-tuned),
They'll hear your words, but not do them!

³³ Yet, after it's done, they'll admit:

Look... it has all come to pass!

And they'll know that there's been a Prophet among them.'

Chapter 34

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² 'O son of man;

Against the shepherds of IsraEl,

You must now prophesy!

Tell them that thus says Jehovah, the Lord:

'O you shepherds of IsraEl;

You shepherds have been feeding yourselves...

But, shouldn't the shepherds be feeding their sheep?

³ 'Look! You have drunk all their milk,

And you've wrapped yourselves in their wool.

You have slaughtered the best of My sheep,

And you've failed to graze [all the rest].

⁴ 'Those who are weak, you've not strengthened,

And those who are ill, you've not treated;

Those with broken [bones], you've not wrapped,

And those that have strayed, you haven't returned,

Nor have you searched for the lost...

Then, for the strong, you only make trouble.

⁵ 'As the result, My sheep have been scattered,

Because they don't really have shepherds.

⁶ *They're being consumed by wild beasts in the fields,*

For they're scattered upon every mountain and hill...

They're scattered across the face of the land,

And no one has searched to make them turn back!

⁷ 'Because of this, O you shepherds;

Hear the Word of Jehovah!

⁸ 'As I live, says Jehovah, the Lord;

Instead of My sheep being plundered,

And being eaten by beasts in the plains...

Because there aren't any shepherds

(Shepherds who'll search for My sheep),

And because the shepherds have grazed on My sheep,

While they've failed to provide them with grass;

⁹ Because of this, O you shepherds,

Hear the Word of Jehovah!

¹⁰ For the Lord Jehovah says this:

*'Look, I'm against all the shepherds,
And I'll require My sheep from their hands.
I'll take them away from tending My sheep,
And the shepherds won't graze on them anymore.
I'll rescue My sheep from their mouths...
They'll no longer be something to eat!*

¹¹ 'The Lord Jehovah also said this:

*{Look!} I will search for My sheep,
And I will come visit with them.*

¹² *As a shepherd who looks for his flocks,
On dark cloudy days when they've strayed...
That's how I'll search for My sheep.*

*'I'll drive them back from where they were [lost],
On that dark cloudy day.*

¹³ *I'll lead them out of the nations...
I'll gather them from many regions,
Then bring them [back] to their land,
Where on IsraEl's mountains, I'll graze them...
In the valleys and homes of their land.*

¹⁴ *'I will provide them good pastures,
And graze them on IsraEl's mountains,
Where they will find a safe haven...
Yes, there they will sleep and find rest
In good and plentiful pastures,
As they graze upon IsraEl's mountains.*

¹⁵ *'I'll graze My sheep and bring them some rest,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

¹⁶ *I'll search for the lost and the strayed,
And I'll bring back the ones that are broken.
I will bind and strengthen those that are weak;
I'll also watch over the strong,
And allow them to graze their fair share.*

¹⁷ *'Then, from among you, My sheep,
Says Jehovah, the Lord,
{Look!} I'll separate the sheep from the sheep,
And the rams from the goats.*

¹⁸ *'Weren't the pastures you fed from enough,
That you trampled on them with your feet?
Or, weren't there enough places to drink,
That you walked in and muddied the waters?*

¹⁹ *'Why, My sheep have trampled their food with their feet,*

And muddied the waters they drank from.

²⁰ *Because of this, says Jehovah, the Lord;
{Look!} I'll separate the strong from the weak.*

²¹ *'For you pushed them away with your shoulders and sides,
And the weak, you have gored with your horns...
You squeezed them out and pushed them aside!*

²² *'So, I will rescue My sheep,
And no more will they serve as [your] plunder;
For between ram and ram, I will judge.*

²³ *'I will raise a shepherd for them,
And My servant David, will tend them...
He'll be a shepherd who cares about them.*

²⁴ *Then, I Jehovah, will be their God,
And My servant David, will rule in their midst...
Yes, I Jehovah, have spoken.*

²⁵ *'An Agreement of peace, I'll make among them,
And I'll wipe the fierce beasts from their land.
Then, they will dwell in the deserts,
And in the forests, they'll sleep.*

²⁶ *'Around My Mountain, they will be spread,
And I'll give them rain when it's due...
It will be a rain of great blessings.*

²⁷ *'The trees in the plains will then yield their fruit;
The ground will yield all her strength;
And in the hope of peace, they'll dwell in their land.*

*'Then they'll know that I am Jehovah,
When I break the chains of their yoke,
And save them from those who are making them slaves.*

²⁸ *'By the nations, they'll not be plundered again,
Nor will they be eaten by beasts.
They will then dwell in hope,
And no one will make them afraid!*

²⁹ *'For them, I'll raise plants of peace,
And they won't hunger or starve anymore,
Nor will they be scorned by the nations.*

³⁰ *Then they'll know that I am Jehovah, their God,
And they'll know that I will be with them.*

*'For, you are My people, O house of IsraEl,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

³¹ *You people are the sheep of My pasture,
And I am Jehovah, your God,
Says the Jehovah, the Lord.'*

Chapter 35

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said,

² 'O son of man;

Turn your face toward [Edom's] Mount Seir,
And against it, now prophesy!

³ Tell them that thus says Jehovah, the Lord:

*'Look! I am against you, Mount Seir!
So I'll stretch My hand out against you,
And make you a wasteland and desert.*

*⁴ Your cities will be desolated;
I'll turn you into a desert;
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

*⁵ Through the age, you've been a resister,
And an enemy to the house of IsraEl.
To enemies with swords, you handed them over,
During their unrighteous times.*

*⁶ 'So because of this... as I live, says Jehovah!
For the blood of these men, I'll pursue you...
For the blood you detested, I'll chase you down!*

*⁷ 'Mount Seir is appoint by Me,
To become a desolate desert.*

Its men and beasts, I'll destroy;

*⁸ Its hills and valleys, I'll fill with your slain...
Yes, those who'll be killed by the broadsword,
Will fall into your fields and ravines.*

*⁹ 'I'll assign you to waste through the age,
And all your cities, I'll empty;
Then you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

*¹⁰ 'Because you said, His nation is mine,
And I will inherit [His land]...
I'll own the place of Jehovah, their God;*

¹¹ As I live, says Jehovah;

*I'll treat you with the hate that you've hated.
And the things that you did because you were jealous;
I'll reveal to you, when I judge you...*

¹² And you'll know that I am Jehovah.

*'I've heard this blasphemous thing that you said:
The mountains in the deserts of IsraEl,
Have been given to us as our food.*

*¹³ 'Then your mouths spoke great words against Me...
Yes, against Me, you've shouted,
And I've heard every word that you said!'*

¹⁴ 'Therefore, Jehovah said this:
*To the joy of this land,
I'll turn you into a desert!*
¹⁵ *And as you were glad to inherit,
And wipe the house of IsraEl away;
That's what I'll do to you, O Mount Seir...
I'll turn you into a desert,
And completely destroy Edom's house...
Then you'll know that I am Jehovah, The God!*

Chapter 36

¹ 'O son of man;
Against IsraEl's mountains,
You must now testify.
You must tell IsraEl's mountains,
To hear the Word of Jehovah!
² Tell them the Lord Jehovah said this:

'Because the enemy spoke this against you:
*Well done, for now these desolate places,
Have become ours through the ages...*
³ For this, you must prophesy...
Tell them that thus says Jehovah, the Lord:

'*Since you were dishonored and detested,
By those who lived roundabout you
(Those who wanted the nations to take you...
Those who spoke ill of you,
And made you the butt of their scorn)...*
⁴ Because of this, O IsraEl's mounts;
Hear the Word of Jehovah!

'For, Jehovah says to your mountains and hills...
To your desolate rivers and valleys...
To your cities abandoned and gone,
Then looted and trampled by nations nearby;
⁵ It's because of this, that thus says Jehovah:

'*In the fire of My rage,
I've spoken against all those who remain...
Against all of Edom I've spoken;
For they happily took My land as their own...
They destroyed, looted, and dishonored My people.*

⁶ 'So over IsraEl, you must now prophesy;
Say to her mountains and valleys,
And to her hills and her forests,
That thus says Jehovah, the Lord:

'*{Look!} In My rage and My zeal,*

I condemn the nations that scorned you.

⁷ *And because they did this, says Jehovah, the Lord,
I'll raise My hand against all those nations
(Those that live round about you),
And they will now bear your dishonor.*

⁸ *'But upon your mountains, O IsraEl,
My people will eat the fruit of their vines;
For they'll live in the hope of returning.*

⁹ *'{Look} Because I'm for you, I'll watch over you,
And your [land] will be planted and worked once again.*

¹⁰ *Among you, I'll multiply men,
To the ends of IsraEl's [borders];
Your cities will all be lived in again,
And your places destroyed will all be rebuilt.*

¹¹ *'Among you, I'll multiply cattle and men
(Yes, they will grow and increase);
I'll settle you as you were long ago,
And do good to you as I did before...
Then you'll know that I am Jehovah.*

¹² *'And you who've opposed IsraEl, My people,
Will also give birth to many men,
But you'll be inherited by them...
Yes, you will become their possessions,
And you'll not leave them childless again.*

¹³ *'Thus says Jehovah, the Lord,
About you, they have said this:
Many men have come and consumed you,
So your nation no longer has children!
¹⁴ But you'll not be consumed by men anymore,
And your nation will never be childless again,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

¹⁵ *'And never again will you hear,
The nations shouting dishonor at you...
You won't bear their scorn anymore,
Nor will your nation be childless again,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.'*

¹⁶ *And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:*

¹⁷ *'O son of man;
The house of IsraEl has lived in this land,
But, by their [bad] ways, they've defiled it...
By their uncleanness with women
Who were living apart as unclean.*

'This is how they've acted before me,

¹⁸ So upon them, I've poured out my rage,
For all the blood that they've spilled,
And the disgusting things that they've done.

¹⁹ 'Among the nations, I've scattered them all...
To many places, I [blew] them away.
I judged them each by the things that they did,
And according to the sins they've committed.

²⁰ 'Then they entered the nations where they had been sent,
And there, they profaned [God's] Most Holy Name.
For the nations who lived there were saying,
*Though these people belong to Jehovah,
He has driven them out of their land!*

²¹ 'So, for the sake of [God's] Name
(Which the house of IsraEl profaned),
I spared them in all the [lands] where they went.

²² 'And because of this,
Tell the house of IsraEl that thus says Jehovah:

*'O house of IsraEl;
I won't take action for your sakes,
But rather, because of My Holy Name,
Which you've profaned among all the nations,
Wherever you have been sent.*

²³ 'Now I'll make My Name holy again,
*Which is being profaned among gentiles
(The Name that you profaned in their midst)...
Then those nations will know that I am Jehovah,
Says Jehovah, the Lord,
When, before their eyes, I'm made holy among you.*

²⁴ 'For I'll take you away from those nations,
*And gather you back from those [countries],
Then, bring you back to your land.*

²⁵ 'I'll pour clean water upon you,
*And from your filth, you'll be cleansed.
I'll also cleanse you of idols,*

²⁶ *And then I will give you new hearts.*

*'Indeed, I will give you new spirits,
And remove your hearts made of stone,
Then change them to hearts made of flesh.*

²⁷ 'Within you, I will put My Spirit,
*Which will cause you to follow My rules.
Then you will obey My decisions...
Yes, you will observe every one!*

²⁸ *'And you'll live on the land that I gave to your fathers...
You'll be My people and I'll be your God.*

²⁹ *I'll deliver you from your uncleanness;
I'll call for much grain... and then even more,
And I'll never again send famine to you.*

³⁰ *I'll multiply the fruit on your trees,
As well as the crops in your fields;
So the scorn of famine, you'll not have to bear,
Among the nations again.*

³¹ *'Then you'll think about the bad things you've done,
And of the wicked ways that you've lived;
Then you'll loathe the things that you've practiced,
And the disgusting things that you did.*

³² *'But I will not do this for your sakes,
Says Jehovah, the Lord;
But rather, in order for you to know,
That you should be ashamed and remorseful,
Over the bad things that you've done!*

³³ *'Then the Lord Jehovah said:
In the day that I cleanse you from your lawless acts,
I will resettle your cities,
And rebuild your desolate places.*

³⁴ *'Your desolate land will be worked once again,
And the reason why it was destroyed,
Will be forgotten by all who pass by.*

³⁵ *'They'll say that the land, which once was destroyed,
Has become a luxurious garden.
And the towns that were wiped away and destroyed
(Those that once had been razed),
Will again be fortified cities.*

³⁶ *'And then, the nations around you
(Those that remain at that time),
Will know I'm the One who rebuilt them
(Those cities that had been demolished)...
The One who replanted those places,
Which had been all wiped away.
For, when I speak then, I'll take action!"*

³⁷ *'And the Lord Jehovah said:
Then the house of IsraEl will seek Me,
[And ask Me to] to deal with them once again.
And just like sheep (holy sheep),
I'll multiply men like JeruSalem's flocks,
During her holiday feasts.*

³⁸ *'Then, all of her desolate cities,
Will be filled with the sheep among men...
And they'll know that I am Jehovah.'*

Chapter 37

¹ Then the hand of the Lord came upon me and he led me by the Breath of Jehovah into a field that was filled with human bones... ² he led me around them in a circle, and look; there were huge numbers [of bones] lying there in the field. ³ Then he said to me: 'O son of man; Will these bones ever come to life again?'

And I replied: 'O Lord; only you know the answer to such things!'

⁴ Then He told me to prophesy over the bones and say this:
'O dry bones; hear the Word of the Lord.

⁵ For the Lord Jehovah says to these bones,
{Look!} The breath of life, I will [blow] into you,

⁶ *Then upon you, I will lay nerves,
And over that, I'll put flesh.*

*'Over you, I will stretch out your skin,
And I'll [breathe] My Breath into you,
So that you will then come to life...
And you'll know that I am Jehovah.'*

⁷ So I started prophesying just as he had instructed me. And at the sound of my prophesying, {Look!} a great shaking occurred that joined those bones, bone against joint. ⁸ And as I watched, I saw nerves and flesh [starting to grow]; and then above them, [I saw] the skin grow over. However, there still wasn't any breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me:

'O son of man;
Now prophesy over the wind...

¹⁰ Tell the wind, that thus says Jehovah, the Lord:
*From the four winds, send them breath...
Blow into these dead ones and make them alive!'*

¹⁰ So I prophesied to the extent that he allowed me to do, and the wind entered them and they came to life... they stood up on their feet [and formed] a great crowd!

¹¹ And the Lord spoke to me and said:

'O son of man;
These bones are the house of IsraEl;
For they say these dry bones are just like their bones,
Since their hope was destroyed and they've perished.

¹² 'So, you must now prophesy,
And tell them that thus says Jehovah, their Lord:
*{Look!} I'll open your tombs and then lead you out...
To IsraEl's land, I'll return you.*

¹³ *Then you'll know that I am Jehovah,
When I lead you out of your graves.*

*'And, O my people...
When I lead you up from your graves,
¹⁴ I'll Breathe upon you and bring you to life,
Then I'll lead you back to your land.
And you'll know that I am Jehovah...
That I spoke and then I took action, says Jehovah!'*

¹⁵ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

¹⁶ 'And you, O son of man;
Take a stick for yourself,
And then write upon it, these words:
Judah and the sons of IsraEl.
Do this, for those who'll be sitting before you.

'Then, take a second stick for yourself,
And write this for those sitting there:
JoSeph, Ephraim's rod.

¹⁷ 'You must then hold both sticks together,
Until they are bonded as one,
And then carry them out in your hands,
¹⁸ And ask the sons of your people,
What they think this might signify.

¹⁹ 'Then, tell them that thus says Jehovah, [their] God:
*{Look!} Through Ephraim's hand, I'll take Joseph's tribe,
And the tribes of IsraEl, that are living next door;
And to the tribe of Judah, I'll give them,
So they will become just one stick...
In the hands of Judah, they'll all become one.*

²⁰ 'Then, take the two sticks that you wrote on,
And hold them out in your hand.

²¹ And tell them that thus says Jehovah:
*{Look!} I'll gather the house of IsraEl,
From the midst of those nations where they have been sent...
I'll gather them from the nations around them,
And return them to IsraEl's land.*

²² 'Then, I will make them one nation,
In My land among IsraEl's hills,
With one ruler who'll be king over all.

*'No more, will they be separate nations...
They won't be a kingdom divided...*

²³ *And by idols, they won't be defiled,
Nor by their irreverence and stumbling.*

*'From their lawless ways, I will save them,
(From all those ways in which they have sinned),
And then, I will clean them up,*

So they'll be My people and I'll be their God.

²⁴ *'My servant David, will rule in their midst,
And there'll be one shepherd for all.
They will follow My orders...
They'll keep My decisions and do them!*

²⁵ *'Then, they will live in the land,
That I gave to My servant, Jacob...
The place where their fathers once dwelled.*

*'And through the age, both they and their sons,
Will live together though the ages,
And be ruled by My servant, David.*

²⁶ *'With them, I'll conclude an Agreement of peace...
An Agreement [that will last] through the ages.
I'll resettle and multiply them,
And through the ages thereafter,
I'll put My holy things in their midst.*

²⁷ *'I'll put My shelter among them...
Then, they'll be My people and I'll be their God.*

²⁸ *And the nations will know that I am Jehovah,
When My holy things are found there once more,
And I've declared them all to be holy.'*

Chapter 38

¹ And the Word of the Lord came to me and said:

² 'O son of man;
Against Gog and the land of Magog
(The ruler of Mosoch, Tubal, and Ros),
You must now set your face;
And against him, prophesy this!

³ Tell him that thus says Jehovah:

*'{Look!} O you ruler of Mosoch, Tubal, and Ros;
I am [truly] against you.*

⁴ *So, I will lead you about,
And into your jaws, put a bridle.*

*'Then I'll gather you and your army...
All your horses and horsemen,
As well as those wearing chest plates...
Those with shields, helmets, and swords...*

⁵ *Persians, Ethiopians, and Libyans
(All those people with helmets and shields)...*

⁶ *Gomer and all those around him...
The house of Togarmah from the far north,
As well as those dwelling around him...*

Yes, all the nations that are coming with you!

⁷ *'So [it's time] for you to prepare...
Yes, you should get yourselves ready...
You and those who have gathered with you;
For, you will serve as [their leader].*

⁸ *'After many days, you'll be ready...
And at the end of the years, you'll come to the land,
With the swords that you have collected,
And those you've gathered from among many nations...
To the land of IsraEl, you'll come...
To a land that was once desolation.*

*'For, they'll have returned from the nations,
And together, they'll be living in peace.
⁹ Then upon them, you will descend like the rain,
And like clouds, you will cover their land.*

*'There you'll be, with all those around you;
For many nations will have joined with you then.*

¹⁰ *'Then the Lord Jehovah said:
In that day, [bad] things will enter your heart;
You'll make wicked plans and you'll say:*

¹¹ *Against this land, I'll arise
(The land that once was rejected);
I'll come upon those who are resting,
And those who are living in peace...
Those in a land without walls,
And with no locks on their doors,
¹² In order to plunder and loot;
To despoil and to take many spoils;
To turn my hand on this place
(This place, which was once desolated,
And is now resettled by a nation,
Which returned from among many nations).
For now, they have many possessions,
And they dwell in the navel of the earth.*

¹³ *'Then Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Carthage,
And those in their towns will say this:
You've come to plunder and loot,
And to take everything as your spoils.
You've gathered to take all the silver,
And to carry off all of their gold...
To take all they own as your loot.'*

¹⁴ *'Therefore, O son of man;
Now, you must prophesy this...*

Tell Gog that thus says Jehovah:

*'Against IsraEl, My people, you'll come in that day...
Against those who've settled in peace.*

¹⁵ *You'll come from your place in the north,
And bring along many nations...
Horsemen all riding horses...
A huge crowd and a great army.*

¹⁶ *'Against IsraEl, My people, you'll come,
Like a cloud that covers the land...
Yes, in the last days, this will happen.*

*'Against My land, I will lead you,
And all the nations will know Me,
When before them, I am made holy through you.*

¹⁷ *'The Lord Jehovah then said:
You're the Gog of whom I spoke long ago,
By the hands of My servants, the Prophets
(The Prophets in past days and years),
In order to lead you against them.*

¹⁸ *'And it will be in that day
(In whichever day that Gog will attack),
Says Jehovah, the Lord,
I will arise in My anger,
¹⁹ And speak in the fiery zeal of My rage.*

*'Surely, it'll be in that day;
From IsraEl, a shaking will come,
²⁰ And before My face, all will tremble...
The fish of the seas, the birds in the skies,
All the wild beasts in the fields,
As well as those that crawl on the ground,
And all men on the face of the earth;
For, mountains will rip into valleys,
And all walls on the earth will then fall.*

²¹ *'Every sort of fear, I'll call upon him;
And against his own brothers, I'll send each one's sword.*

²² *Then I'll bring My judgment upon them,
By plague, blood, rain, and great hailstones.*

*'Fire and sulfur, I'll rain upon him,
And upon all those who've traveled with him...
Upon all the nations that join him.*

²³ *'Then, I'll be magnified and made holy...
I'll be known and glorified among all the nations,
And they'll know that I am Jehovah!'*

Chapter 39

¹ 'And you, O son of man, must prophesy this against Gog... tell him that thus says Jehovah, the Lord:

*'{Look!} I am against you, O Gog,
Ruler of Mosoch, Tubal, and Ros!*

² *I'll collect you and then lead you down...
I'll haul you down from the far north,
And to the mountains of IsraEl, I'll lead you.*

³ *'Then I'll break the bow in your left hand,
And the arrows that you hold in your right.*

⁴ *On IsraEl's hills, I'll then throw you down,
And you and those who are with you will fall.*

*'Then, all the nations that joined you,
Will be given to flocks of winged creatures...
To all the birds of the skies,
And to all the wild beasts of the plains...
I'll give you to them as their food.*

⁵ *'On the face of the plains you will fall;
For, this is what I have declared, says Jehovah.*

⁶ *'I'll also send fire upon Magog,
And the islands will then live in peace.
For they'll know that I am Jehovah;
⁷ And My Holy Name will also be known,
Among those in IsraEl, My people.*

*'No more will My Name be profaned,
For the nations will know that I am Jehovah...
I am IsraEl's Most Holy One.*

⁸ *'Look, it is coming... it will surely take place,
Says Jehovah, the Lord!
And this is the day that I said it!*

⁹ *'Then, those who live in IsraEl's cities,
Will light fires with their weapons thereafter,
(All their small shields and shafts;
All their bows and their arrows;
All the lances and sticks in their hands)...
They'll light fires with them for the next seven years.*

¹⁰ *'They'll no longer cut shrubs in the plains,
Nor will they chop trees in the woods for their fires...
They will just use those weapons.
For they'll loot all those who once looted them,
And despoil all those who once despoiled them, says Jehovah.*

¹¹ *'And it will be in that day;*

*I'll make Gog a place of renown...
A remembrance in IsraEl's graveyards,
For those who come here by sea.
They'll bury Gog and his hordes in a valley,
And call it, The Graveyard of Gog.*

¹² *'By IsraEl's house, they'll be buried...
For seven months, they will clean up the land.
¹³ They'll be buried by the people who live in the land,
And among them, that place will be famous,
As will be the day when I'm glorified,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

¹⁴ *'To the men, they will keep giving orders,
To bury [the bodies] of those who remain,
Upon the face of the ground.*

*'For seven months, they will search,
¹⁵ And when those going there see a man's bones;
Next to them, they'll put up a sign,
For those in charge of digging the graves,
Within the Graveyard of Gog.*

¹⁶ *For, Graveyard is even the name of that town,
And it will be cleansed from the land.*

¹⁷ *'And you, O son of man,
Said Jehovah, the Lord,
Must speak to all the winged creatures,
And to all the wild beasts of the plains.
You must tell them to gather and come...
They must gather from all places roundabout,
[To consume] My great sacrifice,
Which I will offer to them...
A great sacrifice upon IsraEl's hills.*

'Say, Come eat all the meat and drink all the blood!

¹⁸ *For the meat of giants, you'll eat,
And you'll drink the blood of earth's kings.*

'Then, all the rams, calves, and goats will grow fat...

¹⁹ *Since they will eat fat 'til they're full,
And they'll drink all the blood 'til they're drunk,
From this sacrifice that I'm giving to them.*

²⁰ *'You will be filled from My table,
With all their horses and horsemen,
As well as their warriors and giants,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

²¹ *'Then I'll put My glory among you,
And the nations will see all My judgments...*

*The things that I did with My hand,
And the things that I'll bring upon them.*

²² *'And from that day [and into the future],
The house of IsraEl will learn,
That I am Jehovah, their God.*

²³ *All the nations will then come to know,
It was because of IsraEl's sins,
That their house had been captured...
Because they'd annulled their Agreement with Me.*

*'It was for this, that I turned My face,
And gave them into their enemies' hands...
To let them be cut down by swords.*

²⁴ *It's because of all their uncleanness,
And because they had broken [My] Laws,
That I turned My face and did this to them.*

²⁵ *'Yet, after that, says Jehovah, the Lord,
I'll return the captives of Jacob,
And show mercy on IsraEl's house...
I'll show them My zeal for My Holy Name!*

²⁶ *'In peace, I'll bring them back to their land,
And they will accept their dishonor,
For the unrighteous things that they've done.*

*'No one will make them afraid anymore,
²⁷ When I bring them back from the nations.
And then, before all those nations,
I will be holy among them.*

²⁸ *'For then, all the nations will know,
That I am Jehovah, their God,
When they see that I am among them.*

*'I will gather them back to their land,
And never leave them again...*

²⁹ *From them, I'll not turn My face,
For, I will have [finished] My rage,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.'*

Chapter 40

¹ It was in the twenty-fifth year of our captivity, in the first month and on the tenth [day] of the month (fourteen years after the city had been captured) that the hand of Jehovah came upon me, ² and I was led into the land of IsraEl in a vision from God.

Then he put me on a very high mountain, where there was a city that was being built right in front of me. ³ So He took me there, and I saw a man who looked like shining brass, carrying a builder's string in his hand and a measuring reed. Then he laid them down in front of the gate; ⁴ and the man said to me:

'O son of man;
Now, look with your eyes and behold...
Listen with your ears and pay close attention...
Then prepare your heart for what you will see,
Since, this is why you were brought here.
And all the things that you'll see,
Have to do with the house of IsraEl.'

⁵ {Look!} There was a wall outside of the [city] that went all the way around it. And in the man's hand was a reed that measured six forearms by a forearm and a palm. Then he measured the area around the wall, and he found that its width was the same as its height [as measured] by the reed.

NOTE: We have stopped attempting to translate the rest of Chapter 40, all of Chapter 41, and Chapter 42 to verse 13, because many of the meanings of the descriptions in Alexandrian Greek have been lost. We have also examined the Hebrew text and found the same to be true, for no independent translators agree on the meanings of these texts. We assume that the descriptions of the city and Temple in these texts (although far more detailed) agree with the descriptions outlined in the Twenty-First Chapter of Revelation. However, we would rather write nothing than mislead you with a wild guess about the true words of these texts (as others have done in the past).

Chapter 42

¹³ And he said to me:
'The inner chambers facing the north,
And the inner chambers facing the south
(Those in front of the spaces),
Are the Holy-Place rooms where the Priests are to eat;
And it's where they will come to Jehovah,
With the holiest of all holy things.

'There, they must carry the holiest things
– Sin offerings and the holiest of things –
As well as their offerings for errors;
For, this is a most holy place.

¹⁴ 'No one may enter [this place] but the Priests;
And from the Holy Place, they can't leave,
To go to the outer courtyard;
Thus, those who are leading will always be clean.
Nor may people touch the garments they wear;
For, they are also most holy.
So when touching the people, they must wear other clothes.'

¹⁵ Now, after he had finished measuring the inside of the [Temple], he led me outside, along the path to the gate that faces east, where he then measured the area that surrounded the [Temple]. ¹⁶ He stood facing the east with his back to the gate, and he measured five hundred forearms in reed lengths. ¹⁷ Then he turned toward the north and measured northward five hundred forearms in reed lengths. ¹⁸ Then he turned toward the west and measured westward five hundred forearms in reed lengths. ¹⁹ And he turned toward the south and measured southward five hundred forearms in reed lengths.

²⁰ By this, he established the [size of] the perimeter [around the Temple] as being five

hundred [forearms] toward the east, and five hundred forearms roundabout, which is the separation between the Holy Place and its outer walls.

Chapter 43

¹ Then he took me to the east gate to lead me out. ² But {Look!} the glory of the God of IsraEl was coming along the road from the east, and around me there were many voices that were chanting, while the ground all around me was bright and glorious. ³ Then I had a vision that was like the vision that I had when I first entered the city to anoint it... I saw a chariot, which was like the one that I saw at the Chobar river. So I fell with my face [to the] ground.

⁴ Then the glory of Jehovah entered the [Temple] by way of the east gate, ⁵ and [God's] Breath picked me up and carried me into the inner courtyard; and {Look!} the glory of Jehovah filled the [Temple].

⁶ Well, as I stood there watching, a voice started speaking to me from the [Temple]; and then there was a man standing next to me, ⁷ who said:

'O son of man;

Now you can see the place of My throne,
As well as the tracks of My feet.
It's the place where My Name will encamp,
In the house of IsraEl, through the ages.

'IsraEl will no longer profane My Name,
As they did when their leaders led them to whoring,
And to murder those in their midst,
Who were trying to draw them to Me.

⁸ 'They won't build their thresholds next to My threshold,
Nor set their doors next to My doors,
As they did when they claimed My wall as the thing,
Which was the binding between us;
And when they profaned My Holy Name,
By the lawless deeds they committed...
For this brought upon them My rage,
And I wiped them away in great carnage.

⁹ 'Now, they must reject all their whoring,
And the murders of those who would lead them to Me!
Then, through the ages, I'll camp in their midst.

¹⁰ 'And you, O son of man;
To the house of IsraEl, you must give this description...
They must be able to see it,
And understand its [dimensions].

¹¹ 'Then, they must turn from their sins,
And accept the punishment [they're due],
For all the [bad] things that they've done.

'You must draw the plans for this House,

And show how it must be built...
Show all its entrances and exits,
And also show its foundations.

'Then, speak of its orders and laws,
And make known to them all its rules.
You must draw out the plans there before them,
And they must keep and do My Commandments and Laws!

¹² 'Lay out the [Temple] on top of the mount,
And set limits for the Holy of Holies.
Yes, these are the rules for the [Temple].

¹³ 'And these are measurements of the Altar:
Its width is two forearms and a palm.
Its recess is to be two forearms deep,
And the molding that goes 'round its lip,
Must be one forearm wide.

'This is the height of the Altar:
¹⁴ From the bottom of its hollow to the [top of its edge],
Must be two forearms high,
And its width is to be just one forearm.
From the small to the large, is four forearms,
And it must be one forearm wide.

¹⁵ 'From the hearth of the Altar, is four forearms,
And from the hearth to the horns, is just one.

¹⁶ The hearth is to be twelve forearms [square],
And it must [be built with] four corners.

¹⁷ 'Its ledge must be fourteen by fourteen,
And the molding around it, half a forearm.
Its encircling base is a forearm across,
And its steps must face toward the east.'

¹⁸ And he said to me, 'O son of man; Jehovah God now says this:
*These are My orders for the Altar,
In the day that it will be made,
To sacrifice whole burnt-offerings,
And to pour the blood out upon it.*

¹⁹ 'Appoint Levite Priests from the seed of ZaDok,
And only they may approach Me,
Says Jehovah, [your] God.
*Then, before they can [go there to] serve before Me,
[They must sacrifice] a calf from the oxen,
As an offering [to cover] their sins.*

²⁰ 'They must take some of its blood,
And place it on the Altar's four horns,
Upon the four corners of its ledge,

*And upon its base round about,
To cleanse it and [to make it holy].*

²¹ *'They must choose a calf as an offering for sins,
And burn it in the place set apart...
In a place outside of this [most holy place].*

²² *'And then, on the very next day,
They must choose a perfect kid from the goats,
To serve as an offering for sins,
Then [use it to] cleanse the Altar once more,
As they did with the calf.*

²³ *'And after [this cleansing] is done,
They must choose a perfect calf from the oxen,
And a perfect ram from the sheep;*

²⁴ *Then, offer them there to Jehovah.
And add salt as they sacrifice them,
As [holy] burnt offerings to Jehovah.*

²⁵ *'Seven days, they must offer a kid for [their] sins,
And a calf from the oxen each day,
Plus a perfect ram from the sheep.*

²⁶ *'[You must offer them for] all seven days,
To atone for the Altar and cleanse it,
And [to empower] the hands [of the Priests].*

²⁷ *'Then, after these days are completed;
On the eighth day, the Priests must then put,
The whole-burnt-offerings on the Altar,
With the offerings for your salvation...
Only then, will you be able to enter,
Says Jehovah, [your] God.'*

Chapter 44

¹ Then he took me back to the outer gate of the Holies (the one facing east). However, it was locked. ² So the Lord said to me:

*'After this gate has been locked,
It mustn't be opened, so no one may enter;
Only IsraEl's God, Jehovah, may enter...
And until then, it must remain locked.*

³ *'Only those who are guiding may sit here,
To eat their bread before God.
They must enter by way of the columned-porch gate,
And that's the way they must leave.'*

⁴ Then he took me in the direction of the north gate, over against the [Temple], and I looked and saw that the [Temple] of Jehovah had become filled with His glory; so I fell to my face. ⁵ And the Lord said to me:

'O son of man;
Now, prepare your heart and ready your eyes,
As well as your ears, so you'll hear,
All the things that I will now say,
Concerning the instructions I'll give you,
For the Temple of Jehovah and all of its laws.

'Arrange your heart [so you'll understand],
The ways they must enter and leave,
From this Most Holy Place!

⁶ 'Then, you must speak to those who've rebelled
(Those of the house of IsraEl),
And say that the Lord, Jehovah, said this:

*'O you house of IsraEl;
You must bring an end to your lawless ways!
⁷ For, into My Most Holy Place,
You've brought the sons of foreign [men] ...
Those with uncircumcised hearts,
And those with flesh that is uncircumcised.*

*'And with your offerings of bread, fat, and blood,
You have also profaned it.
For you've broken [your] Sacred Agreement with Me,
By all the lawless things that you've done.*

⁸ *'You've not followed the rules of My Temple,
And you've put others in charge.*

⁹ *So, because of these things, says Jehovah;
Foreign sons, whose hearts are uncircumcised,
And whose flesh is uncircumcised,
May no longer enter My Holy Place.*

*'No foreign peoples may thereafter be
Part of the house of IsraEl,
¹⁰ And only faithful Levites may enter [the Temple]!*

*'IsraEl has strayed far from Me,
And followed their own [thoughts and] ideas;
So they'll bear [the weight of] their unrighteous ways.*

¹¹ *'The [rest of the Levites] will also be holy...
They'll serve as keepers of My [Temple's] gates,
And inside it is where they will work.
They'll be the ones who will slaughter
All of the whole burnt-offerings...
They'll offer the things that the people will bring,
And before the people, they'll stand.*

¹² *'But because they have served before faces of idols,
[On behalf of] the house of IsraEl,*

*They'll be punished for their unrighteous ways...
It's why I raised against them, My hand,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

*¹³ 'They must bear the blame for their lawless ways,
And they can't approach Me to serve as My Priests,
Or [touch] the holy things in the Holies.*

*'Yes, they must bear their dishonor,
For the delusions in which they have strayed.*

*¹⁴ So I'll order them to be watchmen,
And to do other such things.*

*¹⁵ 'For the Priests of the Levites – the sons of ZaDok –
Were the only ones who kept watch,
As IsraEl was straying from Me.
So only they may approach to serve before Me...
Before My face they will stand,
To offer the blood and the fat,
Says Jehovah, the Lord.*

*¹⁶ 'Only these may enter My Holy Place,
To approach My table to serve Me,
And to stand guard in My watches.*

*¹⁷ 'And when they enter the courtyard's inner gates,
They must wear their [official] linen clothes...
They may not wear wool when they enter these gates.*

*¹⁸ On their heads, they must wear linen turbans,
And beltless linen pants on their loins.*

*¹⁹ 'And when going to the People's outer courtyard,
They must remove the clothes in which they will serve,
And leave them in the Holy's inner chambers...
Yes, they must then wear other clothes.
For no way can they make people holy,
By approaching them in those clothes.*

*²⁰ 'They may not shave the hair from their heads,
Nor may they leave their heads bare...
They must all cover their heads.*

*²¹ 'And no way may the Priests drink any wine,
As they enter the [Temple's] inner courtyard.*

*²² 'They can't marry a divorcee or a widow...
Only virgins from the house of IsraEl...
But the widow of a Priest, they may wed.*

*²³ 'Then, they must teach all My people,
The difference between the holy and profane,
And the difference between what's clean and unclean.*

²⁴ *'They must handle the cases of judgments of blood,
And attend to decide righteous matters.
They must be fair when judging for Me,
According to My Laws and My orders.*

*'They must observe My holiday feasts,
And My Sabbaths, they must always keep holy.*

²⁵ *'They may not approach a dead person,
So they will not be unclean.
They may approach their fathers, mothers, or sons,
Or their daughters, brothers, sisters, or wives,
Without becoming defiled.*

²⁶ *But even then, they must count seven days,
Before they'll be clean once again.*

²⁷ *'On the day that they enter the inner courtyard,
To serve in My Most Holy Place;
They must bring an atonement [for sins],
Says Jehovah, [your] God.*

²⁸ *'Since I am what they'll inherit,
They will be given no land,
As their possession among IsraEl's sons...
I am to be all they own!*

²⁹ *'The sacrifices are what they will eat...
The offerings for sins and for errors,
And the offerings of separation will also be theirs.*

³⁰ *And all first-fruits are theirs,
As well as all the first-born.*

*'For the Priests, they must set-aside some of the first-fruits.
For, if they render part of the first-fruits
Of all that is brought, to the Priests,
This will bring blessings upon all their homes.*

³¹ *'The Priests may not eat rotting flesh,
Or cattle that's been taken by wild beasts or birds.'*

Chapter 45

¹ *'And as you're measuring the inheritances of ground;
You must set aside a place in the land,
As the first-fruits to Jehovah.
Twenty-five thousand long, it must be,
As well as ten thousand wide;
And the area around it is holy.*

² *'There the Holy Place's four corners will be;
It will measure five hundred by five hundred,
Plus fifty-forearms of space roundabout.*

³ *'And from this place, you must measure,
Twenty-five thousand plus ten thousand wide,
Between it and the Holy of Holies.*

⁴ *'And since all this land will be holy,
A portion must be assigned to the Priests,
Who will serve within My Most Holy Place.
And then, for all of who approach,
To serve in front of Jehovah;
This will be the place where they'll live,
Since they must be separate and holy.*

⁵ *'[Then, a portion must be set aside],
That's twenty-five thousand in length,
And twenty thousand in width,
For the Levites who'll serve in the [Temple],
To be theirs as the city in which they will live.*

⁶ *'And for this city that they will own;
You must set aside twenty-five thousand,
Plus a width of five thousand,
On behalf of the house of IsraEl;
And this will serve in the same way,
As the Holy Place's first-fruits.*

⁷ *'And a portion of this must be set aside,
As the place [where the Chief Priest will dwell],
And as the Holy Place's first-fruits.
It will be his possession in the city,
Before the Holy Place of the first-fruits,
And in front of that part of the city,
Which runs from the east to the west.*

*'It will be as long as the city,
And will run from the east to the west in the land.*

⁸ *'In IsraEl, this will be his possession.
For, I will no longer treat harshly,
Those who are leading My people.
And the rest of the land will then be,
What the house of IsraEl will inherit,
According to each of their tribes.'*

⁹ *'And Jehovah God said:
Let this be enough for IsraEl's guides!
Let misery and unrighteous ways be removed...
Start being righteous and fair!
Lift your tyranny from My people,
Says Jehovah, your God!*

¹⁰ *'Use proper scales and right measures...*

Let [honesty] serve as your measures!

¹¹ *So, if one should receive a tenth measure,
He must get a tenth measure;*

*And if one should receive a tenth weight,
He should get his tenth weight;*

¹² *And if he's owed the weight of twenty-five coins,
The full weight of the coins is what he should get!*

'Your bread must weigh fifteen shekels.

¹³ *And the first-fruits that you set aside,
Should be a sixth of ten bushels,
Or a sixth of sixty-two bushels for wheat,
Or forty quarts for the barley.*

¹⁴ *'Olive oil is a cup from ten cups;
For, ten cups equals a homer.*

¹⁵ *'And one sheep must be set aside,
Out of every two hundred,
Among each of IsraEl's families,
As a whole burnt-offering sacrifice,
And as a sin offering of salvation, says Jehovah.*

¹⁶ *'All must offer their first-fruits,
To the one who is IsraEl's guide.*

¹⁷ *And to this one who serves as your guide,
Whole-burnt offerings must also be brought,
As well as drink offerings and other sacrifices.*

*'They must bring them on all holidays,
As well as on New Moons and Sabbaths.
On the house of IsraEl's holidays,
Each must bring sacrifices to cover their sins,
As well as one whole-burnt offering,
And offerings for IsraEl's salvation.*

¹⁸ *'Then Jehovah God said:
On the first day of the first month,
A perfect calf from the oxen must be offered,
To atone for the Most Holy Place.*

¹⁹ *'Then the Priest must take some of its blood,
And put it on the Temple's four corners,
And upon each of its doorposts,
As well as upon the Altar,
And on the posts of the gate to the inner courtyard.*

²⁰ *'And on the seventh month, they must do the same thing...
They must atone for the [Temple],
On behalf of the senseless and simple,
On the first day of that month.*

²¹ *'And the fourteenth day of the first month,
Will be the [start] of your Passover feasts,
When unfermented bread will be eaten,
For the next seven days.*

²² *And on that day, the one who's your guide,
Must offer a calf for himself,
And one for the sins of the people.*

²³ *'And during that seven-day feast,
He must bring as whole burnt-offerings to God,
Seven perfect calves, and seven perfect rams on each day.
Then for sins, he must also sacrifice,
A kid of the goats on each day.*

²⁴ *He must prepare a cake for each calf and each ram,
And bring olive oil with each cake.*

²⁵ *'And from the seventh day to the fifteenth,
He must offer the same things on each day...
Whole burnt-offerings and sin sacrifices,
As well as gift offerings and olive oil.'*

Chapter 46

¹ *'Then God Jehovah said this:
The gate to the inner courtyard
(The one that faces the east),
Must stay locked for six days each [week] ...
It's just to be opened on Sabbaths,
As well as on every New Moon.*

² *'And the one who is guiding will enter,
Through the columned-porch gate.
Then, he will stand at its threshold,
As whole burnt-offerings are made by the Priests,
Along with an offering for him,
And one for IsraEl's salvation.
Then he'll bow as he leaves the gate's threshold;
And the gate won't be locked until evening.*

³ *'Then, on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons,
The people of the land must all come,
And on that threshold, they'll bow to Jehovah.*

⁴ *'Whole burnt-offerings must be brought on the Sabbaths,
By the one who is IsraEl's guide ...
Of six perfect lambs and one perfect ram,
⁵ As well as a gift of cakes for the ram,
And a gift sacrifice for each lamb (by his hand),
And a quart of olive oil for each offering of cakes.*

⁶ *'On the days of the New Moons,*

*[He must offer] one perfect calf,
Plus six lambs and a ram
– All of which must be perfect –
7 Plus an offering of cake for each ram,
An offering of cake for each calf,
A gift offering for each of the lambs
(Whatever is supplied by his hand),
And a quart of olive oil for each cake.*

*8 'Whenever the one who is guiding should enter,
He must do it through the columned-porch gate;
And that's also the way he must leave.*

*9 'And when, on holidays, the people of the land,
Come [to bow] to Jehovah;
They should enter through the north gate,
Then, bow and leave through the south gate.
But if they choose to enter through the south gate,
They must then leave through the north gate.
They may not return through the same gate...
And they must leave straight away.*

*10 'And the one who serves as the guide in their midst,
Must enter as they start to enter,
And leave after they have all left.*

*11 'And during the festivals and holidays,
An offering of cake must be brought for each calf,
As well as one for each ram,
With whatever his hand should provide for the lambs,
And a quart of olive oil with each cake.*

*12 'And if the one who is guiding should offer,
A whole burnt-offering of salvation;
The gate facing the east must be opened for him.
So, his whole burnt-offering must be given,
Along with his things for salvation,
In the same ways as he does on the Sabbaths.
And after he leaves, they must lock all the gates.*

*13 'He must offer a perfect one-year-old lamb,
As a whole burnt-offering to Jehovah...*

*He must prepare it each morning,
14 Along with an offering as a gift,
Of a sixth of a measure of olive oil,
Mixed with a third measure of finest flour,
As a continuous gift-offering to [God].*

*15 'The lamb, the gift offering, and olive oil,
Must be prepared and offered at dawn,*

As whole-burnt-offerings, throughout all the days.

¹⁶ 'Then Jehovah God said:

*If the one who is guiding chooses to leave,
His inheritance as a gift to his sons,
It will become the possession of his sons.*

¹⁷ *But, if he leaves a gift to his servant,
It will remain his 'til The Year of Release,
And then, it must be returned,
To the one who'll then be [IsraEl's] guide...
But the inheritance of his sons, will be theirs.*

¹⁸ *'There's no way that the one who is guiding,
May claim an inheritance from the people,
So as to tyrannize them.
He may only give the things that he owns,
As an inheritance to his own sons,
So the possessions of My people won't be scattered.'*

¹⁹ Then he took me by way of the back gate to the inner chamber of the Priests in the Holy Place (the one that faces north), and {Look!} within it there was a place off to the side, ²⁰ where he said to me:

'This is where the Priests are to boil,
The offerings for all of their errors,
As well as their sacrifices for sins.
Here's where they'll bake the gift offerings,
So nothing will be carried through the outer courtyard,
In order to make people holy.'

²¹ Then he took me to the outer courtyard and led me around its four quarters. And {Look!} on each side of the [four] courtyards was another courtyard... ²² on each of the four sides of the courtyards were smaller courtyards that measured forty forearms long and thirty forearms wide. ²³ And there were inner chambers around the four courtyards, and cooking pits were located beneath and around the chambers.

²⁴ And he said to me:

'These are the homes of the cooks,
And it's where the sacrifices will be boiled,
Which the people will bring as their offerings,
For those who serve at the [Temple].'

Chapter 47

¹ Then he brought me to the threshold of the [Temple] and {Look!} there was water pouring from an open space beneath its east side (because its front faced the east). And the water poured down to the right side of the [Temple] toward the south, and then on south past the Altar.

² So he led me by way of the gate that faces north and he took me outside to the courtyard gate (the one that faces east), and {Look!} the water was flowing down along its right side.

³ There I saw a man who came out just across from that place who was carrying a ruler in his hand. He then went to the source of the water and measured out a thousand [forearms]... ⁴ he walked into the water and measured out a thousand, and it came up to his knees. Then he measured another thousand, and the water came up to his hips. ⁵ And after that, he measured another thousand, and he wasn't able to walk through it anymore, because the water was flooding with such force that it became a [river] which couldn't be crossed.

⁶ And he said to me: 'O son of man; what do you see?'

⁷ Then he led me over to the edge of the river; and when I turned around, I saw that along the banks of the river there were huge numbers of trees growing on each side. ⁸ And he said to me:

'This water flows east toward Galilee,
Then, to Arabia and on to the sea.
And where it exits, the waters do healing.

⁹ 'To all herds, they will bring life;
For, all that come to this river will live!
And huge numbers of fish will also be there;
Because, they'll all come to this water,
Which heals and gives life to all things...
For all things that come to this river will live!

¹⁰ 'Then, those who fish will come here and stand,
From EnGedi to EnEglaim and then dry their nets.
There'll be no other place like it;
For here, there'll be so many fish,
It'll be like the fish in the Great Sea.

¹¹ 'But, where it turns and flows off,
There's no way that it will heal [anymore];
For [those places] have been given to the salt.

¹² 'And on each side of that river's banks,
Will grow fruit-bearing trees that will never grow old,
And will never fail to bear fruit.

'From the beginning, they'll start doing this;
For these waters came from the Most Holy Place.
And as these waters flow past them,
They'll produce fruit [to be eaten],
And their leaves will bring [good] health to all.

¹³ 'Then Jehovah God said:

*These are to be your land's borders...
The inheritance of the sons of IsraEl's twelve tribes;
For they'll each be given a measured piece of land,
¹⁴ And as brothers, you'll inherit [your portion],
The same as they did when I lifted My hand,
To divide it among your ancestors...*

As an inheritance, this land will then be passed on.

¹⁵ *'The northern borders of the land,
Will run from the Great Sea by HethLon...
From the gates of ¹⁶ HaMath, BerOthah, and Sibraim,
To the limits of HaMath and Damascus,
Then, to the courtyards of HatTicon
(Which are at the limits of Haran).*

¹⁷ *'These are the borders from the sea in the north...
From the courtyards of Enan to the limits of Damascus,
And all places north to the borders of HaMath.*

¹⁸ *'They run east between Haran and Damascus,
To GileAd, through IsraEl, and on to the Jordan,
Where [the Jordan] flows from the east to the sea,
And the palm groves in the east.*

¹⁹ *'And these are the borders to the south and southwest:
They run from Teman and the palm groves,
To the waters of MaribOth Kadesh;
And from there, they flow to the Great Sea...
These are the borders to the south and southwest.*

²⁰ *'The Great Sea is the border from the gates of HaMath,
And it is the border to the west.*

²¹ *'Among the tribes of IsraEl,
This land must be subdivided;
²² You must throw lots for yourselves,
And for the gentiles that will live in your midst...
Those who will bear sons among you.
For, they will be yours as native-born sons,
Among all the sons of IsraEl.
Along with you, they will eat,
And receive an inheritance among all your tribes.*

²³ *'Among the tribes that they came to, they'll live,
Along with others who've also been joined,
And who will also inherit [the land],
Says Jehovah, your God.'*

Chapter 48

¹ *'This is what each tribe [will inherit], by name:*

*'Starting at the top in the north,
To where it splits at the gates of HaMath,
And to the courtyard of Enan,
To the borders of Damascus in the north,
Along part of the borders of HaMath,
And from there to the east and the west,*

Is the portion belonging to Dan.

² *'And from the borders of Dan
(From the east to the west),
Is the portion of Asher.*

³ *'And from the borders of Asher
(From the east to the west);
This is NaphTali's portion.*

⁴ *'And from NaphTali's borders
(From the east to the west),
Is the portion of ManasSeh.*

⁵ *'And from the borders of ManasSeh
(From the east to the west);
This is Ephraim's portion.*

⁶ *'And from Ephraim's borders
(From the east to the west),
Is the portion of ReuBen.*

⁷ *'And from the borders of Reuben
(From the east to the west),
Is the portion of Judah.*

⁸ *'And from the borders of Judah in the east,
Will be the offering of the first-fruits,
Which has a width of twenty-five thousand,
And a length of one measured portion,
From the eastern border to that in the west...
And the Holy Place will be in its midst.*

⁹ *'The First-Fruit must be set aside for the Lord...
Its width is to be twenty thousand,
And ten thousand long is its length.*

¹⁰ *Within it, will go all the first-fruits,
Of the holy things of the Priests.
It runs north for twenty-five thousand,
And toward the west, for ten thousand,
Then toward the east, for ten thousand,
And to the south, for twenty-five thousand...
And the Holy Mountain and Most Holy Place,
Will be located in its midst.*

¹¹ *'This is to be set aside for the Priests...
ZaDok's sons who have been made holy...
Those who've kept watch at My Temple,
And not followed the delusions of IsraEl's sons,
Or strayed in the ways of the Levites.*

¹² *'This is given to them as their first-fruits,*

*From all the first-fruits that come from the land...
A Holy of Holies from the borders of the Levites.*

¹³ *'And the Levites will be given their portions,
Next to the borders of the Priests.
Its length is to be twenty-five thousand,
And it will be ten thousand wide.
The whole length is twenty-five thousand,
And ten thousand will be its full width.*

¹⁴ *'No part [of this land] may be purchased,
Or measured out to be sold;
Nor may its first fruits be taken away;
For, it is all holy to Jehovah.*

¹⁵ *'But, concerning the extra five thousand wide;
Amid that twenty-five thousand,
There'll be a place around the city wall,
Which will serve as the place for their homes...
And the city will be in its midst.*

¹⁶ *'And this is how it is measured:
From the borders toward the north; four thousand five hundred.
From the borders toward the south; four thousand five hundred.
From the borders toward the east; four thousand five hundred.
From the borders toward the west; four thousand five hundred.*

¹⁷ *'And to the north of the city, there also will be,
A space that measures two hundred and fifty;
Then toward the south, two hundred and fifty;
Toward the east, two hundred and fifty;
And toward the west, two hundred and fifty.*

¹⁸ *'And there'll be an additional length,
Next to the first-fruits of the Holy Place,
Which will measure ten thousand toward the east,
Plus ten thousand more toward the west.
This is for the Holy Place first-fruits,
Which is where the bread will be [baked],
For those who will work in the city.*

¹⁹ *And those who work in the city,
Will come from each of IsraEl's tribes.*

²⁰ *'The first-fruits is twenty-five thousand,
And squared by twenty-five thousand.
You must place it next to the city,
As the first-fruits of the Holy Place.*

²¹ *'And an extra space must be set aside,
On behalf of the one who's the guide.
It must run from this side to that side,*

Between the Holy Place first-fruits.

*'The part that is his in the city,
Is twenty-five thousand from east to west,
And twenty-five thousand along the west side...
It's the portion of the one who's the guide,
And the Holy-Place's First Fruits...
And the Holy of Holies will be in its midst.*

²² *'And by the borders of the Levites
(In the mist of their part of the city),
Will be the place for the one who's the guide,
Between Judah and BenJamin's borders...
It'll be given to the one who's the guide.*

²³ *'And what's left of that which belongs to the tribes
(From the eastern borders to those in the west),
Will be given as BenJamin's portion.*

²⁴ *'And from BenJamin's borders
(From the east to the west),
Will be Simeon's portion.*

²⁵ *'And from Simeon's borders
(From the east to the west),
Will be IsSachar's portion.*

²⁶ *'And from IsSachar's borders
(From the east to the west),
Are to be ZebuLun's portion.*

²⁷ *'And from the ZebuLun's borders
(From the east to the west),
Will be the portion of Gad.*

²⁸ *'And from the borders of Gad;
The borders southwest will be his,
From Teman and the waters of MaribOth Kadesh,
And from there, on to the Great Sea...
This is what he'll inherit.*

²⁹ *'This is the land in which you'll throw lots,
For each of IsraEl's tribes;
And these are to be their divisions,
Says Jehovah, your God.*

³⁰ *'The northern access to the city,
Must be four thousand five hundred;*

³¹ *And the city gates must carry the names,
Of each of IsraEl's twelve tribes.*

*'The three gates toward the north will include,
The Gates of ReuBen, Judah, and Levi.*

³² *And the three gates toward the east
(Four thousand, five hundred),
Are the Gates of BenJamin, JoSeph, and Dan.*

³³ *And the three gates toward the south
(Four thousand, five hundred),
Are the Gates of SimeOn, IsSachar, and ZebuLun.*

³⁴ *And the three gates toward the west
(Four thousand, five hundred),
Are the Gates of Asher, NaphTali, and Gad.*

³⁵ *'The circumference must be eighteen thousand,
And whatever the city is named,
Will be its name from that day.'*

Daniel

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
Written by DaniEl, covering a period from about 624-BCE to about 556-BCE.
DaniEl was quoted extensively by Jesus.*

Chapter 1

¹ It was during the third year of the reign of JehoiAkim (the king of Judah) that NebuChadnezzar (the king of Babylon) came to JeruSalem and attacked it. ² Then the Lord gave JehoiAkim into his hands, along with part of the things that were in the Temple of Jehovah, which he carried back to the land of Shinar and put into the treasury of the temple of his god.

³ After that, the king told his Chief Eunuch AshPenaz to bring some of the sons of IsraEl as captives to him who were descended from royalty and nobility. ⁴ They were to be young, perfectly formed, good looking, wise in all things, knowledgeable, intelligent, and bold enough to stand in the palace of the king. And then he told him to school the young men in the writing and the language of the Chaldeans. ⁵ The king also arranged for them to eat at his table each day, to share in his banquet wine, and to be given special care for three years, after which they were to be brought before the king. ⁶ Among these sons of Judah were DaniEl, HananiAh, AzariAh, and MishaEl. ⁷ However, the chief eunuch renamed DaniEl BelTeShazzar (gr. *BalTaZar*), HananiAh ShadRach (gr. *ZedRach*), MishaEl MeShach (gr. *MiSek*), and AzariAh AbedNego (gr. *AbdNago*).

⁸ Now, DaniEl had decided in his heart that there was no way he would pollute himself at the table of the king, nor would he drink any of his banquet wine. So he petitioned the chief eunuch not to be forced to pollute himself, ⁹ and God granted DaniEl the chief eunuch's mercy and compassion. ¹⁰ However, the chief eunuch said to DaniEl: 'I'm afraid of my lord the king, and since he's the one who's selecting your food and the things that you are to drink, I don't want him to see your faces looking sadder than the faces of the other boys who are your peers. For if that happens, the king will have my head!'

¹¹ But DaniEl told MelZar (the man whom the chief eunuch had put in charge of DaniEl, HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh) this: ¹² 'Then, test your servants for ten days. Give us just the seeds of the fields to eat and just water to drink. ¹³ Then compare us to the other boys who eat at the king's table; and whichever looks better is what you should choose for your servants.'

¹⁴ So he did what they asked and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ Then at the end of the ten days, he examined them and noticed how they looked... and he found that they were stronger and in better shape than the other boys who were eating at the king's table. ¹⁶ As the result, MelZar did away with their suppers and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them seeds to eat. ¹⁷ Then God gave them understanding and intelligence in all their studies, and He made them wiser. And it was then that DaniEl came to have an understanding of visions and dreams.

¹⁸ Well, the time finally arrived when they were to be brought before the king, so the chief eunuch took them to NebuChadnezzar. ¹⁹ Then, after the king questioned them, he found that there were none others like these four boys, DaniEl, HananiAh, MishaEl, and

AzariAh, and he allowed them to stand before him. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and knowledge (whatever the king asked them about), he found them ten-times greater than all the other dignitaries and sorcerers throughout his realm.

²¹ DaniEl thereafter lived all the way into the first year of the reign of King Cyrus.

Chapter 2

¹ It was in the second year of the reign of NebuChadnezzar that the king had a dream which disturbed his spirit so much that he couldn't sleep. ² So he gave the order to call for [all his] officials, priests, sorcerers, and Chaldeans, to have them interpret the dream.

Then, when they came and stood before the king, ³ he said to them: 'I had a dream that bothered me so deeply that I must know what it means.'

⁴ Well, the Chaldeans replied to the king in the Syrian language, saying, 'O king; May you live through the ages! Just tell your servants what you dreamed, and we will announce the interpretation to you!'

⁵ But the king told the Chaldeans: 'I've forgotten what it was about... and if you can't tell me the dream and give me the interpretation, I'll have you destroyed and your homes torn down! ⁶ However, if you can tell me the dream and give me its interpretation, I'll give you many gifts, do many favors for you free of charge, and I'll honor you greatly... but first you have to tell me the dream, and then you must explain to me what it means!'

⁷ Well, they answered him a second time, saying: 'May the king tell the dream to his servants, and then we will announce its interpretation!'

⁸ And at that, the king said to them: 'I know for a fact that you're just buying time for yourselves, because I told you that every word of the dream has left me. So now, if you can't tell me the dream, I'll know that you are corrupt and lying, and that you've agreed to keep speaking before me just to [buy more] time. ⁹ First tell me my dream, and then I'll know that I can believe the interpretation you give me!'

¹⁰ But the Chaldeans told the king: 'There's no man on dry land who can make known what the king is asking, for this is something that no great king or ruler has ever asked of an official, a priest, or a Chaldean. ¹¹ What the king is asking is so difficult that no one can tell him such a thing... other than the gods who don't live here in the flesh.'

¹² And at that, the king flew into a rage! He was so angry that he ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be destroyed, ¹³ and he sent out a edict for them all to be put to death.

Well, when they went looking for DaniEl and his friends to do away with them, ¹⁴ DaniEl asked this of AriOch, the king's head-of-the-guards (who had come to execute all the wise men of Babylon). ¹⁵ He said to him: 'O [servant] of the king; Why was such a presumptuous decree put before the king?'

Then AriOch told DaniEl about the things that had been said.

¹⁶ Well, DaniEl went before the king and petitioned him to give him enough time to find the interpretation, so he could announce it to the king. ¹⁷ Then DaniEl went back to his house and there he [met with] his friends HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh, to ask them to help him interpret [the dream]. ¹⁸ So they trusted in the compassions of the God of heaven [to help them unlock] this mystery and to keep DaniEl and his friends from being

destroyed along with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

¹⁹ Well that night, DaniEl had a vision in which the mystery of the dream was revealed to him. So he praised the God of heaven, and said this:

²⁰ 'May the Name of The Great God be praised,
Through the age and into ages of ages.

To Him, understanding and wisdom belong...

²¹ He's the One who changes the seasons and times.

'He appoints kings and removes them...

To the wise, He's the One who gives wisdom,

As well as intelligence, so they'll understand...

²² He uncovers the things that are hidden and deep.

'He knows all that happens in darkness,

For, He is the source of all light.

²³ So, I acknowledge and praise You,

O Great God of the ages.

'You're the One who gave me the wisdom and power,

And revealed what I petitioned from You,

Regarding this matter of the king;

For, You have revealed it to me.'

²⁴ Then DaniEl went to AriOch (the one whom the king had appointed to destroy all the wise men of Babylon) and said to him: 'Don't destroy the wise men of Babylon! I want you to take me before the king so I can announce the interpretation of the dream to him.'

²⁵ As the result, AriOch quickly took DaniEl before the king and told him: 'I've found a man among the captive sons of Judah who will announce to the king the interpretation of his dream!'

²⁶ And the king asked DaniEl (whom he referred to as BelTeShazzar): 'Are you really able to tell me the dream that I saw and then explain its meaning to me?'

²⁷ And there in the presence of the king, DaniEl replied: 'The mystery that the king has asked the wise men, sorcerers, officials, and astrologers to announce to him isn't theirs to explain. ²⁸ However, there is a God in the heavens who uncovers mysteries, and He has made known to King NebuChadnezzar what's going to happen in the last days.

'The dream that you saw in your head while you were lying in your bed is this: ²⁹ You, O king, and the thoughts that you had in your bed, were elevated to see what will happen after this... for mysteries have been made known to you about things that will happen [in the future].

³⁰ 'Now, I'm no wiser than any other living man; but this mystery has been uncovered so that the king may understand what it means, and so that you may know the thoughts that are in your own heart.

³¹ 'You looked, O king, and you saw a huge idol that was overwhelming in size... it stood right in front of your face and it frightened you! ³² This idol had a head of pure gold; its breast, arms, and hands were of silver; its belly and thighs were of brass; its legs were of

iron, and its feet were part iron and part baked clay.

³³ 'Well, you stared at it until a rock was cut from a mountain without any hands, which thereafter flew and hit the image on its feet of iron and baked clay, completely shattering them... ³⁴ and everything else was shattered at the same time (the baked clay, the iron, the brass, the silver, and the gold). Then it all became like a cloud of dust from a threshing floor during the harvest, ³⁵ until a wind came and blew it all away, leaving nothing at all. And after that, the stone that had struck the image became a huge mountain that filled the whole earth.

³⁶ 'So that was the dream... and now I'll tell the king what it means. ³⁷ You, O king, are the king of kings to whom the God of heaven has given a strong, fortified, and honorable kingdom. ³⁸ And in every place where the sons of men live, as well as in every place where the wild animals of the fields and flying creatures of the skies live, has been given into your hands by Him, for He's made you the lord over it all. So you, O king, are the head of pure gold.

³⁹ 'But after you, another kingdom will arise that's inferior to yours, and then a third kingdom (the one of brass) will come to dominate the whole earth. [It will be followed by] a fourth kingdom that will become as strong as iron... ⁴⁰ for just as iron can crush and tame all things, it will tame and crush everything.

⁴¹ 'Then the feet and the toes that you saw, which were part iron and part baked clay, will be a divided kingdom. You saw the iron mixed with the baked clay, because some of the roots of the iron will be in it. ⁴² And because the toes of the feet are part iron and part baked clay, part of the kingdom will be strong and part of it can be easily broken. ⁴³ For as you saw the iron mixed with the baked clay; [this kingdom] will be mixed with the seed of men... and they won't stick to each other, just as iron won't stick to baked clay.

⁴⁴ 'And in the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a Kingdom of the ages that will never be corrupted, and His Kingdom will not be passed on to others. It will crush and sift all kingdoms, and it will stand through the ages.

⁴⁵ 'So, now that you've seen the stone cut from a mountain without hands, and how it crushed the baked clay, iron, brass, silver, and gold; the great God has revealed to the king what's going to happen after this. The dream is true, and you can trust its interpretation.'

⁴⁶ Well at that, King NebuChadnezzar fell to his face and bowed before DaniEl, and he offered him a very nice perfume as a gift. And thereafter, he [also told his servants] to give him something to drink.

⁴⁷ Then the king said to DaniEl: 'It's a fact that your God is the God of gods, Lord of lords, and King of kings. For He alone can uncover mysteries... as you were able to uncover this mystery!'

⁴⁸ Then the king honored DaniEl by giving him many great gifts, and he appointed him over all the [districts] of Babylon as the ruler over all the governors and wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ And because he requested this of the king, ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego were appointed over the construction projects throughout all the regions of Babylon, and DaniEl [thereafter served] in the courtyard of the king.

Chapter 3

¹ It was during his sixteenth year that King NebuChadnezzar had a gold-[plated] idol made that stood a hundred feet tall and ten feet wide, which he placed in the plains of Dura, near Babylon. ² Then he called for all his top officials, generals, lieutenants, governors, vassal kings, ³ and everyone else of authority in all his districts, and told them to come and [celebrate] a holiday of dedication for the idol he had erected.

So everyone came there and stood before the idol that NebuChadnezzar had set up, ⁴ and the [king's] herald yelled at the top of his voice: 'O nations, peoples, tribes, and languages; You've been told that ⁵ when you hear the sound of trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem, you must all fall to your faces and bow before the idol of gold that King NebuChadnezzar has erected. ⁶ And if anyone chooses not to bow before it, he will be immediately taken out and thrown into a blazing furnace!'

⁷ So when the people heard the sound of trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem, all the peoples, tribes, and languages bowed low before the gold idol that King NebuChadnezzar had erected.

⁸ But thereafter, certain Chaldeans went up and made an accusation against the Jews... ⁹ they went to King NebuChadnezzar and said: 'O king; May you live through the ages! ¹⁰ However, the king gave an order that when we hear the sound of the trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem; ¹¹ any man that doesn't fall and bow before the gold idol should be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² Now, there were three Jewish men whom you've put over construction in Babylon – ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego – and they didn't obey your decree, O king; for they've chosen not to serve your gods or to bow before the gold idol that you've erected.'

¹³ Well at this, NebuChadnezzar flew into an angry rage and had them bring ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego before him. ¹⁴ And NebuChadnezzar said to them: 'ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego; Is it true that you won't serve my gods, and that you won't bow before the gold idol that I've erected?'

¹⁵ 'Now, when you hear the sound of trumpets, woodwinds, harps, stringed instruments, and bagpipes playing the anthem, it would be best for you to fall to your faces before the gold idol that I've made. Because, if you don't bow to your faces before it, you will immediately be taken out and thrown into a blazing furnace... and then we'll see which God can rescue you from my hands.'

¹⁶ But ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego replied to King NebuChadnezzar: 'We don't really have to answer you about this matter, ¹⁷ for our God in the heavens (whom we serve) can rescue us from the fire in the furnace... and He will rescue us from your hands, O king! ¹⁸ But even if He shouldn't do this; you must know, O king, that we won't serve your gods or the gold idol that you've set up, before which you've told us to bow!'

¹⁹ Well, NebuChadnezzar was furious, and the way that he viewed ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego started to change. So he gave instructions to heat the furnace seven-times hotter than usual... until they couldn't get it any hotter! ²⁰ Then he gave some powerful men instructions to shackle ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego, and then throw them into the blazing furnace.

²¹ So the men were shackled, and thereafter they were thrown into the midst of the blazing furnace fully clothed, [wearing their] pants, underclothes, and official turbans. ²² And following the instruction of the king, the furnace was made seven-times hotter than usual.

²³ Well, the three men (ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego) fell into the midst of the blazing furnace wearing shackles... but then they started walking around in the midst of the flames, praising God and blessing their lord. ²⁴ And when NebuChadnezzar heard their praising, he was shocked. So he quickly got up and asked his mighty men: 'Didn't you throw three men wearing shackles into the midst of the fire?'

And they replied: 'Yes we did, O king.'

²⁵ But the king said: 'I see four men here that are walking around free in the midst of the flames, and none of them are being burned! And the vision that I'm having of the fourth one is as that of a son of God!'

²⁶ Then NebuChadnezzar leaned forward toward the cover of the blazing furnace and said: 'ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego... you servants of the highest God; Come here... come out of there!'

So ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego came from the midst of the flames, ²⁷ and then all the governors, generals, lieutenants, and king's officials were called over to see these men, and to [witness the fact] that the fire hadn't consumed their bodies! Why, the hair on their heads hadn't been singed, their [clothes] were still the same, and there wasn't even the smell of smoke on them!

²⁸ Then, right there before them all, the king bowed to Jehovah and said: 'Praise the God of ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego, who sent His messenger and rescued His servants that put faith in Him. Why, they changed the word of the king and offered their bodies in fire, because they wouldn't serve any god other than their God!'

²⁹ And thereafter, the king issued this decree: 'Any people, tribe, or language that speaks blasphemously against the God of ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego will be destroyed and their houses will be pillaged, for there's no other god who can rescue in such a great way.'

³⁰ Then the king promoted ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego over all regions of Babylon, paid them more, and put them in charge over all the Jews in his realm.

Then sometime later, the king [wrote this] about [something else that had happened to him]:

Chapter 4

¹ 'NebuChadnezzar the king, to all peoples, tribes, languages... to all who live in the land; May you have an abundance of peace.

² I'm pleased to announce to you that the highest God has performed signs and miracles to me... ³ and His signs are great, His wonders are mighty, His kingdom is through the ages, and His authority is through generations.

⁴ 'I (NebuChadnezzar) was prospering in my palace and my throne was thriving. ⁵ But then I had a vision in a dream that struck me with fear and left me disturbed in my bed, for the vision that I saw in my mind really bothered me. ⁶ So I decreed that all the wise

men of Babylon should brought before me so they could explain the meaning of the dream to me. ⁷ Then all the sorcerers, priests, astrologers, and Chaldeans came to me, and I told them of the dream, but they were unable to explain what it meant.

⁸ 'But thereafter, DaniEl (who is called BelTeShazzar, and who truly has the Breath of God) came in the Name of my God, and I told him my dream. ⁹ [I said], *O BelTeShazzar, you leader of [my] wise men and someone whom I know has the Breath of God and is never powerless when it comes to understanding mysteries; Listen to the vision that I saw in my dream and then tell me what it means.* ¹⁰ *For this is the vision that I saw in my mind while I was in my bed: {Look!} There was a huge tree that stood in the center of the earth... it was very tall,* ¹¹ *and the tree kept getting stronger and larger until it reached into the heavens and spread to the ends of the earth.* ¹² *Its leaves were beautiful and it was filled with enough fruit to feed all [creatures]. So the wild animals of the fields camped under it, the flying creatures of the skies lived in its branches, and all flesh was being fed by it.*

¹³ *'Then, in the vision that I had in my bed that night, I saw a holy observer (a messenger) coming down out of the sky,* ¹⁴ *who shouted and said:*

Now, you must cut down the tree...
Yes, cut off its branches and shake off its leaves,
Then scatter its fruit [on the ground];
Chase off all the wild beasts,
Which are living under its branches,
And drive the flying creatures away!

¹⁵ 'Leave nothing but its roots in the ground;
Then, bind it with iron and brass,
So it will just lie there covered by grass,
Surrounded by wild beasts of the fields,
And bathed by the dew from the skies,
Just like grass on the ground.

¹⁶ 'Then his heart will be changed from that of a man,
And the heart of a beast will be given to him...
For seven times, this is how he'll be changed.

¹⁷ *'Then the observer said:*

This is a [vision] from the Most Holy One,
To show to all men who are living,
That Jehovah's above all the kingdoms,
And He gives it to whomever He chooses...
He can even appoint men who are viewed with contempt,
To be in charge of it all.

¹⁸ 'This is what I saw in the dream (yes me, King NebuChadnezzar). So I [said to] BelTeShazzar, *Explain it to me... tell me what it means! Though none of the other wise men in my kingdom have been able to interpret it for me, I know that you can, O DaniEl, because the Holy Breath of God is within you!*

¹⁹ 'Well, DaniEl was unable to say anything for an hour, because he was so disturbed by

his thoughts. Then [I] asked: *O BelTeShazzar; why are you taking so long in interpreting the dream?'*

'And BelTeShazzar replied: O lord; Leave the interpretation to those who hate you and to your enemies! ²⁰ For the tree that you saw, which became so strong and so tall that it reached into the heavens and covered the whole earth, ²¹ and which grew such great leaves and had such an abundance of fruit that it fed all the wild animals that lived under it, as well as all the flying creatures that lived in its branches ²² is you, O king. Because your fame and greatness has been made to grow so much that it now reaches into the heavens, since you have come to rule to the ends of the earth!

²³ 'And when the king saw a holy observer coming down from sky who [was told] to [cut down] the tree and destroy it, but to leave its roots in the ground and to band the tree with iron and brass, then let it lie there among the shoots of grass among the wild animals [where it is to be bathed by] the dew from the skies, [and is to remain that way] for seven times... ²⁴ this is what it means, O king. It is the highest form of interpretation, for this is what's going to happen to you, O my lord the king.

*²⁵ 'You will be driven away from mankind
And forced to live among beasts in the plains,
Where they'll feed you grass like an ox,
And you'll [be bathed by] dew from the skies.*

*'For seven times, you will be changed,
Until you accept that Jehovah is higher
Than all the kingdoms of men,
And He gives it to whomever He chooses.*

²⁶ 'However, because they were told to leave the tree's roots in the ground, your kingdom will be yours until you understand that your power has come to you from the heavens.

*²⁷ 'But because of this, O king (and may my council be pleasing to you);
You must pay for your sins by giving to the poor...
You must pay a ransom for your errors,
By showing compassion to the needy.
And God may be lenient with you for your sins.*

*²⁸ 'Well, all of these things happened to me (King NebuChadnezzar). ²⁹ For just twelve months later, while I was walking in the temple of my kingdom in Babylon ³⁰ and I was saying to myself, *Isn't this the great Babylon that I've built as my royal home through my own power, strength, honor, and glory...* ³¹ yes, while those words were still in my mouth, a voice came from sky that proclaimed:*

*'To you, it is now being said,
O King NebuChadnezzar,
That your kingdom has been taken from you.*

*³² 'For, men will drive you away,
And then, you'll live among the wild beasts,
Where they'll feed you grass like an ox.*

'For seven times, you will be changed,

*Until you know that Jehovah,
Is the One who is over all kingdoms of men,
And He gives it to whomever He wishes.*

³³ 'Well it happened to me (King NebuChadnezzar) in that very hour... I was driven away from my people, I ate grass like an ox, I was bathed by the dew from the sky, my hair became as strong as that of a lion, and my fingernails grew long like bird's claws!

³⁴ 'Then, after those days had been fulfilled, I (NebuChadnezzar) raised my eyes toward heaven, and my senses were returned to me. So I praised the Most High who lives through the ages... I praised and spoke gloriously of His authority that lasts through the ages, and of His kingship [that lasts] through generations of generations. ³⁵ For before Him, those of us who live on the earth are like nothing at all, since He rules the armies of the heavens and those who live on the earth in any way that He wishes... and no one can resist His hand or ask Him why He does the things that He does.

³⁶ 'Then, after my senses returned, the honor of my kingdom was restored to me; my appearance returned to me; my rulers and great men looked up to me. I also strengthened my kingdom and more greatness was added to me.

³⁷ 'Now, I (NebuChadnezzar) praise, honor, and glorify the King of the heavens, because everything He does is righteous, His ways are all fair, and He humbles all those who are too proud.'

Chapter 5

¹ [Well, many years later], BelShazzar (the last Babylonian king) had prepared a feast for a thousand of his most important men, and they were each served wine. ² Then, while BelShazzar was tasting and drinking the wine, he told [his servants] to bring in the items of gold and silver that his ancestor NebuChadnezzar had taken from the Temple [of Jehovah] in JeruSalem, so that the king, his important men, and his concubines and mistresses could drink from them. ³ So they brought in the items of gold and silver that had been taken from the Temple of God in JeruSalem; and the king, his important men, and his concubines and mistresses ⁴ started drinking wine from them, as they praised their gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone.

⁵ But in that same hour, the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote on the whitewashed wall near the lamp, there in the king's palace. And when the king saw the knuckles doing the handwriting, ⁶ his appearance changed... he was so deeply disturbed that he became incontinent and his knees started shaking! So the king yelled to have the priests, Chaldeans, and astrologers brought in to him. ⁷ And he said to those wise men of Babylon: 'Whoever can read this writing and interpret it for me will be dressed in purple, a gold necklace will be placed around his neck, and he'll be appointed as the third ruler in my kingdom!'

⁸ So all the king's wise men came in. However, they were unable to read the writing or interpret it for the king. ⁹ Therefore, King BelShazzar remained disturbed, his appearance was still changed, and his important guests were also very disturbed.

¹⁰ Then the queen entered the banquet room and told him this: 'O king; May you live through the age! Don't allow this to bother your thoughts and change your appearance, ¹¹

for there's a man in your kingdom who is filled with the Breath of God. Why, back in the days of your ancestors, he was found to be an insightful and understanding man. And because of this, your ancestor King Nebuchadnezzar put him in charge of all his advisors, Chaldeans, and astrologers. ¹² He has a greater measure of [God's] Breath in him, and he's the most intelligent and understanding when it comes to such things as interpreting dreams, reporting things that are [forgotten], and untying knots. [This man] is DaniEl, whom the king renamed BelShazzar. You should call for him and he'll interpret [these words] for you.'

¹³ So DaniEl was then brought before the king, and the king asked him: 'Are you DaniEl, the one whom my ancestor the king brought here among the captives from Judah?' ¹⁴ I've heard that the Breath of God is in you and that you're insightful, understanding, and exceedingly wise. ¹⁵ Now, my wise men, priests, and astrologers have come here and tried to read this writing and to interpret it for me, but they couldn't explain what it means. ¹⁶ However, I've been told that you are able to interpret such judgments; so if you can read this writing and interpret it for me, I'll dress you in purple, I'll place a gold chain around your neck, and I'll appoint you to be the third ruler in my kingdom.'

¹⁷ But DaniEl said to the king: 'You can keep your gifts and you can give the [power] over your house to someone else. However, I will read the writing and interpret it for you, O king.'

¹⁸ 'O king; It was the Highest God who gave the kingdom, greatness, honor, and glory to your ancestor, Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And it was because of this greatness, that God put him over all the peoples, tribes, and languages, and made them tremble in fear before him so that he could destroy anyone he wished, beat anyone he wished, promote anyone he wished, and humble anyone he wished.'

²⁰ 'But when his heart became too haughty and his spirit became too proud, he was brought down from the throne of this kingdom and his honor was removed from him. ²¹ Then he was driven away from among mankind and his heart became like that of a wild animal. So he lived among the zebras, he was fed grass like an ox, and his body was bathed and washed by the dew from the skies, until he recognized that the Most High God is the One who really rules the kingdoms of mankind, and He can give [the power] to whomever He chooses.'

²² 'Now you, O BelShazzar (his descendant), have not humbled your heart before God, which is something that you knew you should do, ²³ and you've acted haughtily before Jehovah the God of heaven by having the items from His Temple brought before you, where you, your important men, and your concubines and mistresses drank wine from them as you were praising your gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone, who can't see, hear, or know anything at all... you failed to glorify the God who holds your breath and everything you are in His hands. ²⁴ So it's because of this that the knuckles of a hand were sent from His presence... yes, He's the One who sent this writing to you.'

²⁵ 'This is what the writing says: Mene, Tekel, Peres.'

²⁶ And this is what it means:

Mene means that God has measured your kingdom and brought it to an end.

²⁷ **Tekel** means that it has been weighed on a scale and found wanting.

²⁸ **Peres** means that your kingdom has been divided among the Medes and Persians.'

²⁹ Well after that, BelShazzar gave the order to dress DaniEl in purple and to put a gold chain around his neck; then he proclaimed him to be the third ruler in his kingdom. ³⁰ However, that very night, BelShazzar (the king of the Chaldeans) was killed ³¹ and Darius the Mede took the kingdom as his own at the age of sixty two.

Chapter 6

¹ Well after that, Darius appointed a hundred and twenty governors to be in charge over his entire kingdom. ² Then he appointed three ministers to be over them, to whom the governors had to report, because the king didn't want to be bothered... and DaniEl was one of these ministers. ³ And because he had an extra portion of [God's] Breath, DaniEl was placed over the other two ministers, so he was in fact in charge of the whole kingdom.

⁴ Of course, the other two ministers and the governors [weren't pleased with this], so they kept looking to find some wrongdoing that they could use as an accusation against DaniEl. However, they couldn't find any excuse, sin, or error against him, because DaniEl was always faithful.

⁵ Well, the other two ministers soon came to realize that the only thing they could use against DaniEl was the Law of his God. ⁶ So they and the governors went before the king and said this:

'O King Darius; May you live through the ages! ⁷ We, the generals, governors, and supreme leaders whom you've appointed over your kingdom – those whom you've appointed to royal positions – have met together, and we want you to enact [this law] to strengthen [your rule]: *Anyone who makes a request of any man or god other than you for the next thirty days, O king, must be thrown into the lion's pit.* ⁸ Please, O king, enact this law and write it for public display, since the decrees of the Medes and Persians can't be changed.'

⁹ As the result, King Darius gave orders for the decree to be written.

¹⁰ Well, when DaniEl found out about the decree, he went home; and there in an upper room before open windows that faced JeruSalem, he bent down on his knees to pray before and to praise his God three times that day (as he had always done). ¹¹ Meanwhile, those men had been watching him closely, so when they saw DaniEl petitioning and begging before his God, ¹² they went to the king and said: 'O king; Didn't you enact an order saying that anyone who makes a request of a god or a man other than you for thirty days should be thrown into the lion's pit?'

And the king replied: 'What you say is true, and the decrees of the Medes and Persians may not be changed!'

¹³ So they said to the king: 'DaniEl (one of those who were brought as captives from Judea) hasn't followed your decree, for he's still praying before his God three times each day!'

¹⁴ Well, all of this really disturbed the king, so he did whatever he could to save DaniEl. ¹⁵ But then the men said to the king: 'You must know, O king, that any decree of the Medes and Persians may not be altered once the king has enacted it, no matter what the circumstances or the position [of the person] involved!'

¹⁶ So the king gave the order and they took DaniEl and threw him into the pit of lions. And there the king asked DaniEl: 'Will your God whom you've served so faithfully rescue you?'

¹⁷ Then they took a stone slab, placed it over the top of the pit, and put a seal on it with the king's ring and the rings of his top men, so that nothing could be changed for DaniEl. ¹⁸ And thereafter, the king returned to his palace and went to bed without eating supper... he had no food carried into him, and he couldn't sleep.

¹⁹ Well, when the king got up the next morning (at daybreak), he went out to the lion's pit. And as he was approaching it, he called out to DaniEl, shouting loudly: ²⁰ 'DaniEl... O servant of the Living God... has your God whom you've served so faithfully been able to rescue you from the mouths of the lions?'

²¹ And DaniEl replied: 'O king; May you live through the ages! ²² Yes, my God sent His messenger who blocked the mouths of the lions. They haven't destroyed me, because He found me righteous... and I haven't done anything against you, O king.'

²³ Well, the king was overjoyed and he ordered that DaniEl was to be taken out of the pit. And when they lifted him out, they found that DaniEl hadn't been harmed in any way, because he'd trusted in his God.

²⁴ Then the king gave orders and they took the men who had accused DaniEl and threw them, their sons, and their wives into the lion's pit. Well, they hadn't even reach the floor before the lions had them... they crushed all their bones, leaving nothing but dust.

²⁵ So after that, King Darius wrote a letter to all the peoples, tribes, and languages throughout the whole earth that said this:

'May you have peace!

²⁶ From my presence, I've sent this decree to all states throughout my realm:

*'Before the face of DaniEl's God,
All should tremble and fear.
For, He is the one Living God
And He exists through the ages.*

*'His Kingdom will not be destroyed
And it will last through the ages;
He alone rules 'til the end.*

*²⁷ 'He snatches away and He rescues;
He brings about miracles and signs,
Both in the heavens and on the earth;
And He's the One who saved DaniEl
From the mouths of the lions.'*

²⁸ So DaniEl continued to prosper during the reign of Darius and on into the reign of Cyrus the Persian

Chapter 7

¹ It was during the first year of the reign of BelShazzar (the king of the Chaldeans) that

DaniEl saw a vision in his head as he was lying in his bed, and this is what he wrote about the things that he saw:

² In my vision during the night, I (DaniEl) saw the four winds blowing hard and stirring up the Great Sea; ³ and four large animals came out of the sea that were different from each other. ⁴ The first looked like a female lion, and she had the wings of an eagle. But as I watched, her wings were plucked off and she was lifted away from the earth; then she stood on feet that were like those of a man, and the heart of a man was given to her.

⁵ Then I saw a second wild animal that looked like a bear. It was lying on one side and there were three ribs sticking out of its mouth from between its teeth. Then it was told to get up and devour much flesh.

⁶ After that, {Look!} I saw another wild animal that looked like a leopard, but it had four wings [like those of] of a bird on its back, and it had four heads. Then it was given great power.

⁷ And as I was watching, I saw a fourth wild animal that was astonishing, frightening, and huge. It had teeth of iron that were mighty for eating and crushing, and it trampled the others with its feet. It was very different from the wild animals that had come before it, and this one had ten horns. ⁸ Then, as I was looking at its horns, another small horn came up in the midst of them, which pushed out the three horns that were in front of it. {Look!} This horn had the eyes of a man, and it started saying grandiose things.

⁹ Well, I kept on watching and then a throne appeared, upon which the Most Ancient One seated Himself. His clothes were as white as snow, the hair on His head was like pure wool, His throne was like flames of fire, and His throne had wheels that looked like flames. ¹⁰ Also, a river of fire shot out from before Him, and there were millions who were serving Him, and tens of millions who were standing before Him.

Then a judgment seat was brought forward and scrolls were opened. ¹¹ And as I was watching, a voice came from the [animal's] horn that spoke those grandiose words.

However, the wild animal was thereafter condemned and put to death, then its body was thrown into a blazing fire. ¹² And after that happened, the rulership of the other wild animals was returned to them (gr. *metestathe* or *changed over*), and their lives were extended for a time and a season.

¹³ Then, as I was watching the things in the vision that night, {Look!} someone like a Son of Man arrived, riding upon the clouds of the skies, and he went in front of the Most Ancient One, ¹⁴ who then gave him rulership, honor, and a Kingdom, so that thereafter, all the peoples, tribes, and languages were to serve him. And [he was told that] the authority he was given was to last through the ages... it would never pass away or be destroyed.

¹⁵ Well at that, the spirit within me (DaniEl) shuddered (as often happens to me), because the visions that I saw in my head were so disturbing. ¹⁶ So I went up to the one who was standing there, because I wanted him to explain the meanings of all these things... and he spoke to me plainly, making the interpretation very clear. ¹⁷ [He said]:

'These four great beasts are four kingdoms,
Which will arise on the earth...

¹⁸ But thereafter, they'll be taken away.

'Then this [Son of Man] will take over the kingdom,
Of the holy ones of the Most High...
Through the age, he will control it,
And into the age of the ages.'

¹⁹ Well, I then wanted to find out more about the fourth wild animal, because it was so different from the other wild animals and it was so frightening because of its iron teeth and brass claws that it used to eat, crush, and trample. ²⁰ I also wanted to learn more about the ten horns that were on its head, and about the [horn] that arose and shook off three of the [horns]... the one that had eyes and a mouth that spoke grandiose things, because it was the most disturbing of all the things that I saw. ²¹ For as I was watching, that horn went to war against the holy ones and conquered them. ²² But then, when the Most Ancient One came and gave these Holy Ones His most favorable judgment, they were able to regain control over their Kingdoms.

²³ Then he told me this:
'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom,
Which will rule over the earth.
It will be greater than all other kingdoms,
For, it will devour all the lands...
It will trample upon them and cut them to bits.

²⁴ 'His ten horns are ten kings that will rise;
And after them, another will come
Who will conquer the previous kings...
All three of them will be humbled.

²⁵ 'Then, he will speak grandiose words,
And mislead the Holy Ones of the Most High.
He'll be allowed to change times and laws,
For a time, [two] times, and a half.

²⁶ 'But then, the judgment seat will arrive,
And his position of rule will be changed...
He'll be removed from view and destroyed,
Until the end has arrived.

²⁷ 'Then the Kingdom, the authority, and the greatness,
Of all the kings under the heavens
Will be given to the Holy One of the Most High,
Whose Kingdom will last through the ages...
Then these kings will serve and obey Him.'

²⁸ Well, that was the end of the matter. These were the thoughts that disturbed me and changed my appearance, so I (DaniEl) kept them and preserved them in my heart.

Chapter 8

¹ It was in the third year of the reign of King BelShazzar that I (DaniEl) had a vision that was like the previous one. ² I was at the palace in Sushan (in the region of Elam) when I had the vision. As I was standing by the Ulai River, ³ I looked up and saw a ram standing

at the river bank that had two long horns. One horn was taller than the other and it grew from behind it. ⁴ Then I saw the ram butting toward the west, north, and south, so that none of the other wild animals could stand before him and none could save them from his hands. Therefore, he did whatever he wished and he became very powerful.

⁵ Well, as I watched, {Look!} a male goat came across the land from the southwest, but [his feet] weren't touching the ground. This goat's horn was very conspicuous, because it grew from between his eyes. ⁶ Then he rushed toward the ram that I saw (the one with the two horns) and butted him as hard as he could. ⁷ Because he was so furious with him, he ran as fast as he could and he hit the ram, breaking off both of his horns, leaving him weak and unable to oppose him. Then [the male goat] threw the ram to the ground and trampled him, and no one came to save him.

⁸ Thereafter, the male goat became extremely famous for his strength. But then his large horn was broken and four horns grew up from beneath it that each pointed toward one of the four winds of the skies. ⁹ And from one of them came an extremely powerful horn that grew rapidly toward the south and east ¹⁰ until it reached the powers of the heavens.

Then he threw [the other three horns] to the ground, he trampled on the stars, ¹¹ and he made himself great before the commander-in-chief. So because of him, the sacrifices were to be disturbed and the Holy Place would be destroyed.

¹² Then a sacrifice was prepared for him as a sin offering, which would cause righteousness to be tossed to the ground. And after he did this, he prospered.

¹³ Then I heard the holy one speaking. He asked:
'How long will this vision stand,
When the sacrifices are taken away,
The sin of granting destruction's allowed,
And the Holy Place and its power
Will continue to be trampled on?'

¹⁴ And he said:
'After two thousand, three hundred mornings and evenings,
The Holy Place will be cleansed.'

¹⁵ Well, as I was seeing this vision, I (DaniEl) wanted to understand more. Then I saw what looked like a man standing before me; ¹⁶ and I heard a man's voice speaking from the midst of the Ulai. He called out and said: 'GabriEl; Let him understand the vision!'

¹⁷ So he came over to where I was standing. And as he was coming, I became very disturbed and fell to my face. Then he said to me:
'Pay attention, O Son of Man;
For this vision is of the time of the end!'

¹⁸ Well, as he was speaking to me, I stayed there with my face to the ground; but then he touched me and stood me up on my feet. ¹⁹ And he said:
'{Look!} I'll explain what will bring the end to [God's] rage;
For, these are the things that will happen
In the time of the end:

²⁰ 'The ram that you saw with [two] horns,

Is the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians,
²¹ And the male goat is the king of the Greeks.

'The great horn between its eyes,
Will be their greatest of kings,
²² And after he's broken, the four horns that arise,
Will be four kings that will come after him;
But, none will be as strong as he was.

²³ 'Now, in the last days of their kingdom,
They will be filled with sins.
Then a king will arise who has a proud face...
One who understands riddles.

²⁴ 'Though he'll have great power, the strength won't be his;
Then he'll prosper and corrupt in wondrous ways...
He'll take action and he will bring ruin,
To a people who are mighty and holy.

²⁵ 'He'll prosper by putting on yokes,
And in his hands, there'll be treachery;
For in his heart, he'll think himself great.

'His treachery will bring many to ruin,
And he'll destroy many to establish himself...
He'll break them like eggs in his hands.

²⁶ 'As for the vision of the evenings and mornings;
The things that you saw are all true!
But, you must seal up this vision,
For it will happen in some future time!"

²⁷ Then I (DaniEl) went to bed and I was sick for several days after that. But I [finally] got up and did my work for the king; and I wondered about the vision... but I was the only one who knew about it.

Chapter 9

¹ Well, it was in the first year of Darius (*of Xerxes*), who was from the seed of the Medes and who ruled over the kingdom of the Chaldeans, ² that I (DaniEl) came to understand the number of the years from the words that Jehovah had given to the Prophet JeremiAh; for he had prophesied that JeruSalem would lie desolate for seventy years. ³ So I turned my face toward Jehovah God to ask Him about this through prayers, supplications, and by fasting in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴ I prayed to my God Jehovah, acknowledging Him and saying this:

'O Lord; O great and wonderful God who keeps His Sacred Agreements and who is merciful to those who love Him and keep His Commandments;

⁵ We've sinned, done wrong, and been godless;
From Your Commandments and ways, we have turned.

⁶ We've not listened to Your servants the Prophets...
Those who spoke in Your Name,

Or to our kings, rulers, ancestors, and kin.

⁷ 'Though You, O Jehovah, are just;
The people of IsraEl and Judah,
As well as those in JeruSalem,
Have been covered with shame to this day...
Yes, all those people who [live there],
And those who've been [taken away],
To every place that You've sent them,
Because they had been rebellious,
And annulled their Sacred Agreement with You.

⁸ 'The faces of our kings, rulers, and fathers,
Who've sinned against You, have been shamed.
⁹ But, from Jehovah our God,
Has come forgiveness and tender compassion,
Despite our sins of withdrawing from Him.

¹⁰ 'To Your voice, we've not paid attention,
O Jehovah, our God,
Nor have we obeyed the Laws that you gave
Through the hands of Your servants, the Prophets.

¹¹ 'IsraEl has broken Your laws,
And turned aside from hearing Your voice;
So the curses and oaths that were written
In the Law of Moses (the servant of God)
Have now fallen on us,
Because of our sins against You.

¹² 'So the words that [Moses] spoke against us
And against the judges who judged us,
Have now all come to pass...
They have brought evil upon us,
Such as has never been seen in JeruSalem's skies.

¹³ 'In the Law that You gave to Moses,
It was written that such bad things would happen,
If we failed to search for the face of our Lord,
And turn away from our sins.

¹⁴ 'This was the concern of Jehovah our God,
So He sent upon us, our own evil ways.
It was right for Jehovah to do all these things,
Since we've not paid attention to His voice!

¹⁵ 'Now, O Jehovah our God...
The One who led His people from Egypt,
With His great, mighty hand,
And established a Name for Himself to this day;
We have broken Your Laws...

We've fallen into errors and sin!

¹⁶ 'But Lord;
In your great loving care,
Please turn Your anger and rage
Away from Your city, JeruSalem,
And from Your Most Holy Mountain!

'It was because we walked in the sins of our fathers,
That JeruSalem and Your people
Have become an object of such ridicule
By those who are living around us.

¹⁷ 'O Lord, our God;
Hear the prayer of Your servant
And to the things that I'm begging of You!

'May Your Face be seen in Your Holy Place
Before those whom You have deserted...
Do it for the sake [of Your Name], O Lord!

¹⁸ 'O my God;
Lean down Your ear and listen to me!
Please open Your eyes and notice
How we and the city where You've put Your Name
Have now been brought to destruction!

'So, we can no longer approach You
And throw our worries before You,
Because of our unrighteous ways, O Lord,
And we have many things that concern us.

¹⁹ 'Please listen, O Lord, and cover our sins...
Act quickly for the sake [of Your Name];
For this city and its people are called by Your Name!'

²⁰ Well, was as I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sins and the sins of my people and throwing my desire for mercy before my God Jehovah concerning His Holy Mountain, ²¹ {Look!} GabriEl (the person whom I saw flying in my first vision) touched me (it was about the time for the evening sacrifice), ²² and then he helped me to understand... he spoke to me and said this:

'O DaniEl;
I have come here to teach you,
So that you can now understand.

²³ I've been coming here since you started your prayer,
To tell you that you have been found
To be a very desirable man.

'So, you must now reflect on the things
That you will see in this vision.

²⁴ 'Seventy periods of seven

Have been set for you and your people
And upon the Holy City on Zion,
To bring an end to its sins,
To set a seal on its sins,
To wipe away all their lawless deeds,
And to atone for their errors;
To restore righteous ways through the ages,
To put a seal on the prophecies and visions,
And to anoint the holiest of the holy.

²⁵ 'So know this and now understand:
From the delivery of the word and response
For JeruSalem to be rebuilt,
Until the Anointed (Christ) Leader arrives,
Will be seven periods of seven,
Plus sixty-two periods of seven.
They'll rebuild the walls and the squares,
But they'll do it through difficult times.

²⁶ 'And after the sixty-two periods of seven,
The anointed one will then be destroyed (gr. *exolothreuthesetai*),
For in that place, there'll no longer be justice.

'Then the Holy Place and the city
Will be corrupted by a leader who'll come,
And cut them off by a downpour.
Then he'll order extinction upon them,
Until the end of his war.

²⁷ 'He will strengthen the Sacred Agreement with many,
During one period of seven;
But in half of that period of seven,
Sacrifices and drink offerings will be lifted away.

'Then to the Temple will come the disgusting destroyer,
And until that time has reached its conclusion,
There'll be just complete desolation.'

Chapter 10

¹ Thereafter, it was during the third year of the reign of Cyrus, the king of Persia that these true words were uncovered to DaniEl (who was called BelTeShazzar), and great ability and understanding was given to him in this vision.

² At the time, I (DaniEl) had been in mourning for three weeks... ³ I hadn't eaten any meat or bread, and no wine had entered my mouth. And during those three weeks, I hadn't rubbed myself with oil.

⁴ Well, it was on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the banks of the great Tigris River, ⁵ that I raised my eyes and saw a man wearing linen clothes. His hips were wrapped in the gold of Ophir, ⁶ his body looked like stone, his face looked like

lightning, his eyes looked like burning lamps, his arms and legs looked like shining brass; and when he spoke, it was like the sound of a large crowd.

⁷ I was the only one who saw this vision, for the men who were with me didn't see anything. However, something came over them that frightened them, and they all ran away, ⁸ leaving me alone.

Well, when I had this great vision, it left me weak. It took all my glory and corrupted it, leaving me without any strength. ⁹ Then I heard a voice speaking words; and when I heard what was being said, I was confused. So I fell with my face to the ground.

¹⁰ Then {Look!} a hand reached out and touched me and lifted me up on my knees and onto the palms of my hands. ¹¹ And this what he said to me:

'O DaniEl, you very desirable man,
Understand the words that I'm speaking to you....
Get up and stand on your feet,
For I have been sent here to help you!'

Well when he said that, I stood erect (but I was still shaking). ¹² And he said to me:

'Don't be afraid, O DaniEl.
For, from the first day that you opened your heart
So as to comprehend [all these things],
And you started [your fast] to Jehovah, your God,
All of your words have been heard,
And I've come here because of the things that you said.

¹³ 'But the king of the armies of Persia
Stood and opposed me for twenty-one days,
Until MichaEl (the foremost of rulers)
[Finally] came to my aid.

'So, that is where I then left him...
With the ruler of the armies of Persia,
¹⁴ And I've come here in order to explain,
What will happen to your people in the last days.
For, this is a vision of things that will be.'

¹⁵ Well, as he was saying that, I fell with my face to the ground once again, because I was so confused. ¹⁶ Then {Look!} someone who looked like one of the sons of men came and touched my lips, and I was able to open my mouth and speak.

So I said to the one who was standing before me: 'O lord; since seeing the vision of you has twisted my insides and left me weak... ¹⁷ O Jehovah, how will your servant be able to speak to you after this? For I'm weak, I'm unable to stand, and I can scarcely breathe!'

¹⁸ Then [someone who] looked like a human came and touched me, and gave me strength.

¹⁹ And he said:
'Don't be afraid, you very desirable man;
May you have peace... be manly and strong!'

Well, as he was speaking to me I became stronger, and I said: 'Now speak, O my lord, because you've given me enough strength!'

²⁰ Then he asked:

'Do you know why I have come here to you?
I must soon go back to fight a war
Against the ruler of the armies of Persia,...
And then the ruler of the Greeks will arrive.

²¹ But first, I must help you to write words of truth.
And no one else is with me when it comes to these things,
Other than MichaEl, your ruler.

Chapter 11

¹ 'Why, since the first year of Cyrus
I've been standing nearby in power and might...

² And now, I'm going to tell you the truth:

'{Look!} Three kings will arise in Persia,
And a fourth will come who'll be richer.
And after he gains all his wealth,
He will attack the kingdoms of Greece.

³ 'Then a mighty king will arise
Who will gain a vast kingdom,
And he'll do whatever he wishes.

⁴ 'But, after his kingdom's established,
It will be divided and broken,
To the four winds of the sky,
And no longer be as strong as during his rule.
For his kingdom will then be plucked up
And divided among the outsiders.

⁵ 'Then the king in the south will grow mighty,
But, one of his rulers will grow stronger,
And he'll use the authority he's given
To rule a kingdom that's vast.

⁶ 'However, after his time,
They will all become allies;
And the daughter of Egypt's king
Will go to the king in the north,
And she will make treaties with him.
But his arm won't be strong and his seed will not stand.

'Then, she will be handed over,
Along with all those who brought her,
As well as [all her] young women,
And the one who made her strong in her time.

⁷ 'Then, someone will arise from the root of her flower,
And when he's ready, he will attack
The army of the king of the north

And overrun his supporters...
He will conquer and win the war.

⁸ 'He will carry away all their molded gods
And the rest their desirable things,
Including their silver and gold,
And back to Egypt, he'll take it...
For he'll dominate the king of the north.

⁹ 'Thereafter, [the king] of the north,
Will come and enter the kingdom
Of the king of the south...
But then, he'll go back to his land.

¹⁰ 'Then his sons will gather an army
Which will quickly overrun and pass through.
[In his land], they will then settle in,
And they'll fight all the way to his stronghold.

¹¹ 'This will enrage the king of the south,
And he will raise a large army
To war against the king of the north,
And he will take many captives.

¹² 'Then his heart will become just too proud,
And thousands, he'll cut to the ground,
But the war he will fight won't be won.

¹³ 'Thereafter, the king of the north
Will gather an army that's larger,
And toward the end of [his rule],
He'll attack and enter with power
Along with many [weapons of war].

¹⁴ 'But, during that time, there'll be a rebellion
Against the king of the south,
As the rabble among your people grow stronger,
So that the vision can be proven true...
But then, they will also get weaker.

¹⁵ 'Then the king of the north will attack,
And he will build many siege mounds,
To capture their fortified cities.

'And the chosen ones of the south will arise,
But they won't be quite as strong.

¹⁶ So the one who enters will do what he wants,
And no one will be able to stop him.

'So he'll stand in the glorious land,
And with his own hands, he'll destroy it.

¹⁷ 'Thereafter, he'll then set his face,

To march against their whole kingdom
With those who have been proven upright,
And this is what he will do:

'The daughter of women, they'll give him
So that he can thereafter corrupt her,
But she will not stay and she'll never be his.

¹⁸ 'So he'll turn his attention to the islands,
And many will be captured there.
This will stop the ridicule of their kings...
But only for a short time.

¹⁹ 'At that time, he will turn his attention
To making his land much stronger;
But, he will get weak and then fall,
And never be [heard from] again.

²⁰ 'Then, from out of his roots will arise
The shoot of a kingdom to oppose him,
Who'll demand all the glory of his kingdom.

'And in those days, he'll be broken...
But, not by rebellion or war.

²¹ Rather, one will stand in his place
Whom he has treated with contempt,
And not given the glory of his kingdom.
But, he will [return] in prosperity,
And through treachery, will then take the kingdom.

²² 'Then the strength of the one who was bringing the flood
Will be broken and washed away from his face...
The one who's in charge of the Sacred Agreement.

²³ 'For, after he's made an alliance,
He will then be deceitful.

'Through a nation that's small, he'll gain power;

²⁴ And he'll go to a prosperous place,
To do something that his own fathers
And even their fathers couldn't do...
Plunder and divide up the loot.

'He'll spend time devising plots against Egypt;

²⁵ Then, when he's strong, he will set his heart
Against the king of the south,
And attack him with a great army.

'But the king of the south will gather an army,
And will beat him with new weapons of war...

²⁶ He'll devour everything that he wanted to take,
And then he'll destroy his whole army...

He'll break him and he will kill many.

²⁷ 'Both kings will have wicked hearts,
So, when they sit down at a table,
They will both lie and nothing will be settled
Until the end has arrived.

²⁸ 'Then, when he goes back to his land,
He will return with much plunder,
And with his heart set against the Holy, Sacred Agreement.

'And when he returns to [his] land,
²⁹ He'll invade the south once again...
But this time, it won't be the same as the first.

³⁰ 'Then, [ships] of Cyprus will attack him,
And [teach him] that he must be humble;
But, he will return and again show his rage
Against the Holy Sacred Agreement.

'He'll attack all those who've supported
The Holy Sacred Agreement,
³¹ Then he'll arise and profane the great Holy Place,
And the daily sacrificing will come to an end.

He will bring the disgusting destroyer
³² Against all those who are breaking the Law
And who've disregarded the Sacred Agreement.

'Yet, those who know God will grow stronger
And they'll do what needs to be done...
³³ For they'll come to understand many things.

'But, they'll be weakened by swords and by fire,
And as captives, they'll be carried away...
They'll be ravaged for a long time.

³⁴ 'Yet, after they've reached their weakest condition,
They will be given some help;
But, many will be added to them
Who will not show the same interest.

³⁵ They'll drag down those who do understand
And purify them as through fire,
Until the time of the end,
Which is still a long time away.

³⁶ 'Thereafter, the king will grow in his might,
And put himself over all gods,
Including the God of all gods.

³⁷ 'He will speak words that are pompous,
And prosper until [God's] wrath hits its peak.

He won't listen to the gods of his fathers,
Or to the desires of his women.

'Because he'll [think] of himself as so great,
He won't pay attention to gods...

³⁸ He'll worship his warring nation as god...
A god unknown to his fathers.

'He will glorify silver and gold,
Precious gems and desirable things.

³⁹ Then, inside his fort where he hides,
He will worship another strange god
(Whichever one that he chooses).

'Then he'll share some of his glory
And as gifts, he'll give away land,
To cause many to submit to his rule.

⁴⁰ 'And, in the time of the end,
He'll lock horns with the king of the south...
He'll gather many chariots, horsemen, and ships,
And enter the land of the king of the south...
He'll conquer it and pass through it.

⁴¹ 'Then he'll turn toward the glorious land,
Where he will cause many to weaken;
But the sovereignty of Ammon's sons,
As well as those of Edom and Moab
Will then be saved from his hands.

⁴² 'He'll stretch his hand out over the earth,
And the land of Egypt will not be saved.

⁴³ He'll dominate all with the hidden reserves
Of their silver and gold,
And the best things of Libya, Ethiopia, and Egypt...
[Things that he'll find in] their forts.

⁴⁴ 'Then, out of the north and the east,
He will hear things that disturb him,
So he'll leave in a rage to destroy
And to wipe away many people.

⁴⁵ 'His royal tent, he'll then pitch,
Between the sea and the Glorious Mount,
Until he comes to his end,
And no one will be able save him.

Chapter 12

¹ 'And in that very same hour,
The Highest Messenger, MichaEl, will come
(The one who keeps watch on the sons of your people),

And a difficult time will arrive,
Such as has never happened before
And will never happen again.

¹At that time, your people will be saved
(Those whose [names] have been written in the scroll),
² And many who are sleeping in graves will awaken,
Some to life through the ages,
And others to disgrace and ages of shame.

³ Then, those who understand what I'm saying,
Will shine like lights in the heavens.
And the many who prove to be righteous,
Will shine like the stars through the ages.

⁴ And you, O DaniEl;
Cover these words and seal up the scroll,
Until the time of the end.
[It's a time when] many will be taught
And knowledge will be multiplied.'

⁵ Then I (DaniEl) looked and I saw two others who were standing there, one on this side of the river and the other on the opposite bank, ⁶ and one of them asked the man in the linen clothes who was standing over the water in the river: 'When will all these wonders that you spoke of reach their conclusion?'

⁷ And the man in the linen clothes who was standing over the river raised his right and left hands high toward the heavens, and he swore an oath to The God who lives through ages, saying:

'The holy ones will be scattered
For a time, [two] times, and half of a time,
Before these things reach a conclusion.'

⁸ Well I heard it, but I didn't understand it, so I asked, 'O lord; When will these things that you spoke of start to happen, and when will your judgment arrive?'

⁹ And he said:

'Go, DaniEl... cover and seal up the words!

¹⁰ For, there will be many that are chosen
And they'll be [dressed] in white robes.
By fire, they'll be purified...
And thereafter, they will be holy.
But the sinners will continue to sin,
And they will not pursue knowledge.

¹¹ From the time the disgusting destroyer arrives
And the sacrificing comes to an end,
Is a thousand, two hundred, and ninety days.

¹² And all of those will be blest,
Who still hang on to the end
Of a thousand, three hundred, and thirty-five days.

¹³ 'Now, [you will] go to your rest,
Until that day and hour arrives.
Then, you will be resurrected,
And you will receive your inheritance,
After those days have come to their end.'

Hosea

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A prophecy primarily against the 10-tribe Kingdom of IsraEl, which was written sometime between 790-BCE and 830-BCE.*

Chapter 1

¹ These are the words of Jehovah that came to Hosea (the son of BeEri) in the days of UzziAh, JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh, the kings of Judah, and in the days of JeroBoam (the son of JoAsh) the king of IsraEl.

² This is the beginning of the word of Jehovah by Hosea.

The Lord spoke to Hosea and said:

'Take a woman for yourself from the whores,
So that children [can be born] from her whoring;
Because, by chasing after immoral sex,
The land has strayed from Jehovah.'

³ So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of DiBlaim, and she got pregnant and bore him a son.

⁴ Then the Lord said to him:

'Call his name JezreEl;
For, in a short while, I'll bring vengeance,
On the house of Judah, for JezreEl's blood;
And to the Kingdom of IsraEl, I'll bring an end.

⁵ 'In that day, I'll break IsraEl's bow,
There in the valley of JezreEl.'

⁶ Then she got pregnant again and gave birth to a daughter. And [the Lord] said to him:

'Call her name, *Show No Mercy*;
For on the house of IsraEl, I'll show no mercy...
I'll stand against and oppose them.

⁷ 'Yet, by the power of their God Jehovah,
I will show mercy upon Judah's sons,
And I will bring them salvation.
But, I will not save by the bow or the sword,
Nor by battles of horses and horsemen.'

⁸ Well, after she weaned Show No Mercy, she got pregnant again and bore a son. ⁹ And He said:

'Call his name, *Not My People*;
Because, you're no longer My people,
And I am no part of you.

¹⁰ 'But the number of IsraEl's sons,
Will become as great as the sands of the seas,
So they'll not be measured or counted.

'And it will be in that place,

Where I told them, *You're not My people,*
They'll be called *the Living God's sons.*

¹¹ 'Then they'll gather the sons of IsraEl and Judah,
And appoint someone to rule over them.
But, from this land, they'll [be taken];
For, JezreEl's day will be great.'

Chapter 2

¹ 'Speak to your brother, *Not My People,*
And to your sister, *Show No Mercy.*

² Plead with your mother... yes plead;
For she isn't really My woman,
And I'm not really her man.

I'll remove all her whoring from Me,
And the adultery between her two breasts,

³ Then I'll strip her down 'til she's naked,
And restore her like the day she was born.

'To be wiped away, I'll appoint her,
And make her a waterless land;
Then, I will destroy her with thirst.

⁴ 'On her children, I'll show no mercy;
For they're the result of her whoring...

⁵ Because their mother was immoral,
And the one who bore them, disgraced them.

'For she said, *I will follow my lovers...
Those who provide my water and bread,
As well as my clothes and fine linen robes...
Along with my olive oil,
And all the rest of the things I deserve.*

⁶ 'For this;
{Look!} With barbs, I'll close up her way...
I'll block her ways and her roads,
So she will not find them thereafter.

⁷ 'Then, when she chases her lovers,
There's no way she'll be able catch them...
She'll search for them, but not find them.

'Then she'll say, *I'll return to my man,
Where things were much better than now.*

⁸ But, she doesn't know I'm the One,
Who provided her grain and her wine,
As well as her oil and her silver.

'But she took my silver and gold,
And used it to make things for BaAl.

⁹ And because of this, I will return,
To remove all My grain in its season,
As well as My wine in its time.

I will remove all her clothes,
As well as My linen robes,
And then she'll have nothing to cover her shame.

¹⁰ 'Before her lovers, I'll show all her filth;
And from My hand, she will not be saved.

¹¹ I'll remove all the joy of her holiday feasts,
And her holidays, New Moons, and Sabbaths.

¹² I'll also take her grapes and her figs,
For she said, *These wages were paid by my lovers.*

'So I'll appoint them to witness [against her],
And beasts in the fields will consume her,
Along with the birds in the skies,
And the things that crawl on the ground.

¹³ I will take vengeance upon her,
For each day that she sacrificed to BaAl...
When she put on her necklaces and earrings,
And forgot Me, to chased after lovers,' says Jehovah.

¹⁴ 'For this, {Look!} I'll cause her to wander,
And order desolation upon her.
But then, I will speak to her heart,
And I will give back her things...
I'll turn that troublesome valley,
Into a valley of hope.

¹⁵ I'll make her as humble as she was her youth...
Like the day she ascended from Egypt.

¹⁶ 'And it will be in that day,' says Jehovah;
'That she'll call out to Me, *O My man...*
No more will she call to BaAl!

¹⁷ For the name of BaAl, I'll lift from her mouth,
And she won't remember what he was called.

¹⁸ 'In that day, I'll conclude an agreement,
With all the wild beasts of the fields,
As well as with the birds in the skies,
And all the things that crawl on the ground.

I'll also break the broadswords and bows...
I'll bring an end to the wars,
And I will send hope to the land.

¹⁹ I'll take her as My woman through the ages...
I'll take her rightly and fairly...

In mercy and compassion, [I'll welcome her back].

²⁰ I'll take her to Myself in full trust,
And she'll think of Me as her Lord.

²¹ 'And in that day,' says Jehovah,
'To the skies, I'll turn My attention,
And the skies will pay attention to the land,
²² Then the land will pay attention to the grain,
And to the wine and the oil...
To JezreEl, they'll pay attention once more.

²³ 'I'll plant her in the ground for Myself,
And I'll love the one that's unloved.
Then I will say, *You're My people,*
To those who aren't really Mine;
And she will say, *Jehovah's My God!*'

Chapter 3

¹ And the Lord said to me:
'Go again and love an adulteress,
Who wishes to do what is bad!
For, though IsraEl's sons are loved by their Lord,
They have looked to strange gods,
And of raisin cakes, become fond!'

² So, I hired [such a woman] for myself for fifteen silver coins, two hundred quarts of
barley, and a skin flask of wine. ³ And I said to her:

'Now, you must sit next to me,
And you may not be immoral
Or be with [another] for many days...
You must be mine alone!

⁴ 'So the sons of IsraEl will sit for some time...
Without a king or a ruler,
And no Altar, sacrifices, or Priesthood...
Nothing to give them direction!

⁵ 'But, after these things are completed,
IsraEl's sons will return,
And they'll search for Jehovah their God,
And for David to serve as their king.

'Then, at the end of the days,
They will find joy in Jehovah,
And with the good things that He provides.'

Chapter 4

¹ O sons of IsraEl; Hear the word of the Lord!
For, Jehovah now has a case,
Against all you who live in this land...

Because, there's no mercy or truth,
And no knowledge of God in this land.

² 'Cursing, lying, murder, and fraud...
And adultery, have poured 'cross this land.
Why, you've mingled blood with your blood,
And for this, your land will [soon] mourn,
³ As those living here will diminish.

'Then, all the wild beasts in the fields,
All the birds [that fly] in the skies,
And the fish in the seas will all fail.

⁴ [The Lord says]:
'No one should judge and no one should scold;
For My people now argue like priests.

⁵ 'So each day, I'll bring weakness to you...
And the prophets among you will weaken,
As night starts to serve as your mother.

⁶ 'For, from My people, you've taken the knowledge.
And because you've pushed higher knowledge away,
I will push you away...
You won't be My priests anymore.

'Since you've forgotten the laws of your God;
I will forget all your children.

⁷ And because of their sins against Me,
Their glory, I'll appoint to dishonor.

⁸ Then My people will eat their own sins,
And their lives will be claimed by their unrighteous ways.

⁹ 'And these things that will happen to the people,
Will also happen to the priests...
I will bring vengeance upon them
For all of their evil ways,
And pay them back for their [unrighteous] thoughts.

¹⁰ 'Then they'll eat, but they'll never be filled;
For they've become whores who can't get themselves straight.
They don't look [to God] anymore,
Because, they've abandoned Jehovah.

¹¹ Yes, whoring, wine, and strong drink,
Have captured the hearts of My people.

¹² 'They look to omens for answers,
And [wave magic] wands for replies.
In a spirit of whoring, they've wandered,
And to their God, they're unfaithful.

¹³ 'On hilltops, they now sacrifice,

Beneath the oaks and white poplars,
As well as the rest of the shade trees,
[To ask] for good and protection.

'For this, your daughters will all become whores,
And your brides will be filled with adultery.

¹⁴ 'Then, I will not visit your daughters,
When they are found guilty of whoring,
Nor [will I visit] your daughters-in-law,
When they are committing adultery.

'For, among prostitutes, they've been mixed...
Those [who offer their bodies].
And the men just don't understand,
So, they have [had sex] with the whores.

¹⁵ 'But you, O IsraEl... don't be stupid!
And you O Judah... don't go to GilGal!
Don't go to the temple at BethEl,
Or swear oaths and say, *As our Lord is alive!*

¹⁶ 'IsraEl is hot like a heifer in heat,
So she'll be fattened like lambs in a feed lot.

¹⁷ 'Ephraim has partnered with idols,
Thus, he has made his own snares.

¹⁸ He took up with CanaAnite whores and had sex,
And loved the dishonor of their neighing.

¹⁹ So a mighty wind will sweep him away,
And those altars will bring him disgrace.'

Chapter 5

¹ 'Hear these things, O you priests;
O house of IsraEl, pay attention;
And house of the king, give an ear!
For, there is a judgment against you.

'Despite your important position,
You have turned into a snare.
So I'm stretching a net on [Mount] Tabor,

² Like one that is used to catch game,
And I'll be the One who'll correct you.

³ 'I remember Ephraim and IsraEl,
When they hadn't strayed far from Me.
But, Ephraim has since been immoral,
And IsraEl is also defiled,

⁴ So, neither has remembered to turn to their God.

'Now the spirit of whoring is in them,
And they've [forgotten] their Lord.

⁵ So for all of her insolent ways,
IsraEl's face will be humbled;
And for Ephraim's unrighteous ways,
I will bring weakness upon him...
And I'll also bring weakness on Judah.

⁶ 'With their sheep and calves, they go before Him;
But, no way do they follow Jehovah,
Nor will they be able to find Him,
Because they've all turned away.

⁷ 'They have abandoned Jehovah,
And to children of strangers, they've given birth.
So they and all they'd inherit,
Will be soon eaten by blight.

⁸ 'So from the hilltops, start sounding the trumpets...
Blow them from all the high places!
Proclaim in the temple at BethEl,
That BenJamin has been [attacked],
⁹ And that Ephraim has been destroyed,
In their day of correction!

I was once trusted by IsraEl's tribes;
¹⁰ But the rulers of Judah became like all those,
Who move the property lines.
So like water, I'll pour upon them My wrath!

¹¹ 'Thus, Ephraim [is being oppressed],
Because he trampled on justice,
And because he chased after things that are vain.

¹² So to Ephraim, I'll send a disturbance,
And to the house of Judah, I'll now be a spur.

¹³ 'Though Ephraim saw his disease,
And though Judah recognized his reasons for grief;
Ephraim turned to Assyria,
And asked their king to send him some aid.
However, [that king] couldn't save him...
So no way will he see an end to his grief.

¹⁴ 'For to Ephraim, I'll be like a panther,
And to the house of Judah, a lion...
I'll snatch them away and I'll go...
I'll grab them and no one will save them.

¹⁵ Then I'll leave and return to My place,
And not be seen again in that time...
Until they turn and search for My face.

Chapter 6

¹ 'But, when they're oppressed, they'll rise early;
And then, about Me, they'll say,

*'We should return to Jehovah, our God;
For He'll snatch us [from here] and He'll heal us.
He'll attack them and then dress our wounds!*

² *And after two days, He'll restore us,
So that by the third day, we'll be alive,
And before Him, we'll stand!*

³ *'Knowledge of Him, we'll know and pursue...
We'll find Him at each crack of dawn.
Then, like morning rain, He will come...
Yes, as evening rain on the ground.*

⁴ 'O Ephraim, what must I do?
And Judah, what must I do?
For your mercy is like morning clouds,
Which, like the dew, fades away.

⁵ 'So by Prophets, I have mowed you down...
I've killed you with the words from My mouth,
And the judgments on you have gone forth like light.

⁶ What I want is mercy, not sacrifice...
Not whole burnt-offerings, higher knowledge!
⁷ But they've broken their Sacred Agreement with Me,
And they have shown Me their hatred.

⁸ 'Gilead is a city of wasted deeds...
She's like one [who makes waves] in the water.
⁹ Her strength has come from her thieves,
And her priests are like men who murder from ambush.

'Shechem has committed unrighteous acts,
Against the house of Israel.

¹⁰ Causes for shuddering, I've seen there;
And because of Ephraim's whoring,
Both Israel and Judah have now been defiled.

¹¹ So they must reap [from the vine] of rebellion,
Until I bring back My people.'

Chapter 7

¹ 'When I brought healing to Israel,
It exposed the injustice of Ephraim,
As well as Samaria's evils.
For at first, they all just told lies,
Then, from among them, came thieves,
And robbers led them out to the highways.

² 'They sang together of the evil in their hearts,
Remembering all the [bad things] they did.
And now, they're surrounded by the things that they chose...
These things that have happened in front of My face.

³ 'For, all the bad things they've done,
Gladdened [the hearts] of their kings...
Yes, their lying delighted their rulers!

⁴ 'The adultery that they have committed,
Has become like the fire in an oven,
Which burns for the purpose of baking...
Together, the flames [warm] the fat,
Until it's full and fermented.

⁵ 'And in the days of their kings,
Their rulers became enraged by their wine,
And opened their [arms] toward those who were vile.

⁶ 'For their hearts were burning like ovens,
And Ephraim's sleep was then filled,
With [thoughts of destroying] all night...
And in the morning, it burst into flames.

⁷ They became heated like ovens,
And then they devoured their judges.

'So, all of their kings have fallen away,
And none have called out to Me.

⁸ Ephraim's people are all intermixed,
Like a cake that is baked in hot ashes,
Which [no one has bothered] to turn.

⁹ 'Then, strangers ate all his strength
(Although he wasn't aware)...
And after that, his hair all turned grey
(Yet, he remained unaware).

¹⁰ 'But, IsraEl's insolent ways,
Will soon humble their faces;
For they haven't turned toward Jehovah, their God.
Yes, after all these things had happened,
They never went looking for Him.

¹¹ 'Ephraim became like a dove,
For he had no mind and no heart.
First, he called out to Egypt,
Then to the Assyrians, he [turned].

¹² 'But when they go there, I'll throw out My net,
And I will catch them like birds...
I'll drag them down and correct them,
And listen [to the sounds] of their torment.

¹³ 'Woe to them, for they've leaped away!
O how wretched they are,
In their irreverence toward Me.

'Though I had once paid their ransom,
They spoke against Me and lied...

¹⁴ In their hearts, they failed to call out...
They just laid there and shrieked in their beds...
Then they sold themselves for grain and for wine.

¹⁵ 'When they were corrected by Me,
I'm the One who strengthened their arms!
But then, against Me, they hatched wicked plots.

¹⁶ 'So when they return, they'll have nothing...
They'll be like a bow that's stretched tight,
And their rulers will fall by the broadsword.
Yes, because they've said stupid things;
In the land of Egypt, they will be defiled.'

Chapter 8

¹ 'For their land is in [Egypt's hands],
And against My [Temple], an eagle now flies,
Because they've broken My Sacred Agreement,
And shown disrespect for My Laws.

² 'But then, they'll cry out to Me:
Our God; Haven't we known You?

³ Yet, IsraEl threw away the good things I sent,
To follow someone who's My enemy.

⁴ 'By themselves, they chose their own rulers...
They didn't do it through Me.
And then, these men started to rule...
But they saw no reason to ask Me.
Then, they made idols of silver and gold;
So, they have to be wiped away!

⁵ 'O Samaria; get rid of your calves,
For they are provoking My rage...
How much longer will IsraEl stay dirty?

⁶ 'Why, [the calf] is just something you've made,
So it [really] isn't a god!
O Samaria;
Because of your calves, you have strayed!

⁷ 'Seeds of destruction, they've sown to the wind,
And now, their end is searching for them.
They're a stalk of grain, too weak to give flour,
And if it could give just a little,

It would be eaten by strangers.

⁸ 'IsraEl will be swallowed down,
And among all the nations, be useless.

⁹ For, up to Assyria she traveled,
And as Ephraim so loves to do,
She offered them bribes [for their aid].

¹⁰ 'So among the nations, they will be [scattered]...
And then, they will be just too weak,
To again anoint rulers and kings for themselves.

¹¹ 'Ephraim has built many altars,
And the alters she loves are the [roots] of her sins.

¹² So for them, I'll write extra laws,
Because she loves those strange altars.

¹³ If they should offer sacrifices upon them,
And if they should then eat the meat;
Their Lord won't receive them in favor.

'Their unrighteous ways are what He'll recall;
And for their sins, He'll send vengeance.

Why, they have gone back to Egypt,
¹⁴ And IsraEl's forgotten who made them.

'Now, they have established sacred precincts,
Inside the walls of the cities of Judah.
So, I will send fire to their cities,
Which will burn them to their foundations.

Chapter 9

¹ 'So, O IsraEl, do not rejoice,
Nor should your people be glad.
For against Jehovah, you've whored.

'You loved the gifts of the grain,
From the threshing floors where they laid you.

² But your threshing-floor grain [will not feed you],
And the wine in the vats will [soon fail].

³ 'They chose not to dwell in the land of Jehovah...
Ephraim [preferred] life in Egypt,
And among the Assyrians, they ate what's unclean.

⁴ 'They offered no wine as drink to their Lord,
Or anything delicious before Him.
Their sacrifices became like the bread,
Which is offered in mourning,
And defiles all those who would eat it.

'So their bread may not enter [My Temple],

For [the purpose of saving] their lives.

⁵ Thus, what will you do on your festival days,
And the holiday feasts of Jehovah?

⁶ 'Because of this; Look... they are gone,
Back to the misery of Egypt!

'Now, Memphis will watch over them,
And Machmas where they be buried.
Ruin will inherit their silver,
And thorns will grow in their tents.

⁷ For the days of My vengeance have come upon them...
The time for receiving what's due.

'As a prophet without inspiration,
Is how IsraEl will view her affliction...
Like a man who's blown away by the wind.
And because you've been so unrighteous,
The frenzy [in your lives] will increase.

⁸ 'Ephraim's watchmen once [walked] with God;
But now, their prophets are just crooked snares,
And madness [reigns] in their temples.

⁹ 'They've been corrupt since the days of the hills;
So He won't forget their unrighteous ways,
And He'll punish them for all their sins.

¹⁰ 'O IsraEl;
Back when I had first found you,
It was like finding grapes in the desert,
And as early figs on a tree.
But thereafter, as I was watching,
Your fathers [bowed to] BaAl Peor...
And that's when they left [Me] in shame,
To become something disgusting...
Something that's no longer loved.

¹¹ 'Ephraim was a bird that flew [from its nest],
[Losing] the glory of [the place of] its birth,
And its pangs of conception.

¹² So, though they may nourish their children;
Like all the rest they'll be childless.

'O woe, when I tear all their flesh away!

¹³ For, Ephraim's young will be treated like game...
Their children will be led out and stabbed!

¹⁴ Yes, give it to them, O Jehovah!
Yes, please give it to them!
Give them a womb that is childless,
As well as breasts that are dry!

¹⁵ 'Their evil deeds are in GilGal,
And there's where [they've gained] all My hatred.
So, because of the evils they've done there,
I'll throw them away and love them no more;
For, none of their rulers [have listened to Me].

¹⁶ 'Although Ephraim is something I've hoed,
His roots have still become dry,
So, he can no longer bear fruit.

'Thus, when they give birth, I will destroy
Those whom they love from their bellies...

¹⁷ Yes, I will push them away;
For, they refused to listen to Me,
So among the nations, they'll wander.

Chapter 10

¹ 'IsraEl was a vine with many good branches,
And her fruit was [once] straight and true.
But the greater the abundance of her fruit,
The more they built altars [to other gods].
And the more prosperity there was in the land,
The more they built [shrines of false worship].

² 'They gave their hearts to such things;
But now, they'll be wiped away.
For I'll cut their altars down to the ground,
And empty out all of their shrines.

³ 'They say, *We don't have a king anymore...*
Someone we feared [more than God];
For, what could the Lord do to us?

⁴ 'They give excuses and lie;
But because I had a contract with them,
My judgments will soon rise against them,
Like weeds in an untended field.

⁵ 'To the calf in the [temple] at BethEl,
The people of Samaria have gone.
There, My people have wailed...
And this has made Me feel bitter.
When they should have rejoiced in My glory,
They chose to move far from Me.

⁶ 'So, Assyrians will chain them and lead them away,
As gifts and tributes to their king.
And it will be by His decree,
That Ephraim and IsraEl will be shamed.

⁷ 'Samaria threw away her [true] King,

Like throwing a stick across water.

⁸ So the shrines at BethEl (IsraEl's sin),
Will soon be lifted away.

'Then upon all of their altars,
Thorns and thistles will grow.
And they will say to the mountains,
Come and cover us over,
And to the hills, *Fall upon us!*

⁹ 'For as long as the hills have existed,
IsraEl has stood in her sins.
But no way will the hills [come to her aid],
When war arrives on her unrighteous young,
¹⁰ To correct them and bind them together...
For, it will take [war] to straighten their ways.

¹¹ 'Ephraim's a heifer that has learned to love fights;
But, I'll [grab hold] of her neck,
And lead Ephraim off as [a captive].
I [will also teach] Judah [to plow],
And Jacob [to break the hard ground].

¹² 'So, you should sow what is righteous...
Gather the vintage of life!
On yourselves, you should shine light of knowledge...
Yes, keep on asking Jehovah,
Until righteous ways enter your [hearts]!

¹³ 'Why quietly overlook impious ways,
And gather the vintage of unrighteous things?
For you're eating fruit that is false,
And in chariots, you're putting your faith...
Yes, you're trusting in your own power.

¹⁴ But destruction will come to your people,
And all your walled [cities] will fall.

'O house of IsraEl;
As ShalMan treated the house of JeroBoam,
In the day of their war,
And dashed the mothers on top of their young...

¹⁵ That's how I will treat you for your wicked ways.'

Chapter 11

¹ 'They were disowned early on,
And IsraEl's kings were also disowned.

'Since IsraEl was a child that I loved,
I called his children from Egypt.

² But, as I was calling them back,

They started to move far from Me.
To BaAl Im, they offered sacrifices,
And burned incense to their carved idols.

³ 'I once wrapped Ephraim up in My arms...
And when he didn't know Me, I healed him.

⁴ While in the corrupt state of mankind,
I wrapped him in the bonds of My love.

'So to him, I'll become like a [father]...
One who disciplines [his sons]...
I'll watch over him and I'll win!

⁵ 'To the land of Egypt, they will not return.
But Assyria's king will rule over them,
Because they wouldn't repent.

⁶ 'So, swords will rage 'gainst their cities,
And consume the bars of their gates...
For their bad decisions, they'll be destroyed!

⁷ 'His people have clung to things in their homes,
And I am enraged by what they hold dear;
So, there's no way that I'll bless them.

⁸ 'How should I treat you, O Ephraim...
How can I shield you, O IsraEl?
Should I treat you the same as AdMah?
Will I appoint you as I did to Zeboim?
Will My heart be changed in such matters...
Should I be sad over things that disturb Me?

⁹ 'There's no way that I'll bring all My rage upon you...
No way will I make Ephraim extinct.
For I am God, not a man;
I'm the Holy One in your midst;
So, I will not enter your cities.

¹⁰ 'But, they must [return to] Jehovah;
For, He will roar like a lion,
And startle the children by the sea in the west.

¹¹ 'They'll be startled like a bird out of Egypt,
And like an Assyrian dove;
Then I'll take them back to their homes,' says Jehovah.

¹² 'By Ephraim, I was encircled with lies...
By the irreverence of the houses of IsraEl and Judah.
But Jehovah will recognize them once again,
And call them, *the Holy People of God!*

Chapter 12

¹ Ephraim is like a bad wind;
For he pursues burning winds all day long...
He does many empty and vain things.
With Assyria, he has [signed] treaties,
And he's traded olive oil down in Egypt.

² 'And the Lord has a case against Judah,
So He'll punish Jacob according to his ways,
And pay him back for the bad things he's done.

³ 'While he was still in the womb,
He caught the heel of his brother,
And grew in strength with his God.

⁴ With an angel, he wrestled and won;
Then he wept and begged [for a blessing].

'So, there in [BethEl], he found Me.

⁵ And it was there that I said:
*From now on, I must be remembered
As Jehovah, the Almighty [God].*

⁶ 'So, you should return to your God...
Show mercy and learn to be fair...
Always [stay close] to your God!

⁷ 'Now, in [your land], you have unrighteous scales,
And you love to tyrannize others.

⁸ So Ephraim is saying, *I'm rich;*
And I've found a way to relax.
But he'll never see the fruits of his labor,
Because of the bad things he's doing.

⁹ 'I am Jehovah, your God...
I'm the One who led you from Egypt.
And I'll settle you in your tents once again,
As I did in the days of My holiday feasts.

¹⁰ 'Once more, I will speak by My Prophets,
And provide them with many visions;
For it's through the hands of the Prophets,
That I am being described.

¹¹ 'GilGal no longer exists;
For their kings offered false sacrifices.
So their altars are heaps of turtle manure...
The [manure] that is found in unplanted fields.

¹² 'To the plains of Syria, Jacob traveled,
As IsraEl's servant searched for a woman;
Then, for a woman, he watched over sheep.

¹³ 'And it was by [JoSePh], a Prophet of God,
That IsraEl was led down to Egypt.
Then, by that very same Prophet,
That IsraEl's people were saved.

¹⁴ 'But, Ephraim provoked [God] to anger;
So his blood will be poured out upon him,
As the Lord pays him back for his scorn.'

Chapter 13

¹ 'According to Ephraim's words;
IsraEl's righteous laws came from him...
Then he turned to BaAl and he died.

² 'Yes, they've continued to sin,
And to cast images of idols with their silver,
Which are thereafter finished by craftsmen,
Who say, *We must sacrifice men,*
Because the calves are all gone!

³ 'For this, they are like morning fog,
And like morning dew, they'll be gone...
As chaff on the floors, they'll just blow away,
And like tears, they will dry.

⁴ 'But I am Jehovah, your God;
I'm the One who led you from Egypt,
And no other God, should you know;
For there is no Savior other than Me!

⁵ 'I shepherded you in the desert,
And filled you from pastures in barren lands.
⁶ But then, you your hearts became haughty;
And because of this, you forgot Me.

⁷ So I'll be like a panther or a leopard to you...
According to the ways of Assyria.

⁸ Like an angry bear, I'll attack you,
And I will rip you to pieces,
To feed you to the cubs in the woods...
Then wild beasts of the fields will rip you apart.

⁹ 'When you're so corrupt, O IsraEl;
Who else will come to your aid?

¹⁰ Where is your king...
Why doesn't he come and save all your towns...
Why not let him come and serve as your judge?

'A long time ago you had asked Me
To give you a king as your ruler!

¹¹ So I gave you a king in My anger,

And My rage was then satisfied.

¹² 'But from Ephraim, there just came injustice,
And he started to hide all his sins;

¹³ So the pangs of birth are now coming to him.
And though he may be your smartest son,
He can't end his children's destruction.

¹⁴ 'Will I save them from the hands of the grave?
Will I [pay] their ransom from death?
Where is your punishment, O death?
And where is your sting, O place of the dead?
Their consolation is far from My eyes!

¹⁵ 'This is why I'll separate brothers,
And send burning winds from the desert to them,
Which will dry up their veins,
And wipe away all their springs...
Their land and good things will wither and dry.

¹⁶ 'Samaria will be wiped away,
Because she resisted her God.
Then her people will fall by the broadsword...
Those by her breasts will be dashed [to the ground]...
And those in the womb, ripped to pieces!

Chapter 14

¹ 'O IsraEl;
Return to Jehovah, your God!
For, by your sins, you've been weakened.

² Follow your own [good advice],
And now, turn back to Jehovah!

'Just ask Him to please overlook,
All of your unrighteous ways,
So that you may receive what is good...
You'll be repaid for the fruit of your lips.

³ 'Why, Assyria will not be your savior,
And you'll never ride their war horses.
So, stop calling your hand-made things gods,
And start showing mercy to orphans!

⁴ 'Then, I will repair all your homes;
I will also confess that I love you,
And My rage will be turned away.

⁵ 'To IsraEl, I'll be like dew in the morning;
Then, like a lily, they'll blossom,
And as Lebanon's [trees], they'll grow roots.

⁶ 'His branches will grow very full;

And as olive trees, they'll bear so much fruit,
That to Lebanon, its scent will be carried.

⁷ 'Then, they will all be returned,
And in His protection, they'll sit.
They'll live amidst plenty of grain,
And like grapevines, they'll blossom...
They'll be remembered like Lebanon's wines.

⁸ 'O Ephraim;
What good are all of your idols?
Am I not the One who is humbling you,
And the One who can make you strong once again?
I'm a dense juniper tree,
And it is from Me that you can bear fruit!

⁹ 'So, who among you is wise,
And who can understand all these things...
Yes, who among you can recognize them?
For the ways of Jehovah are straight,
And the righteous will live by these ways,
As the godless are stumbled.'

Joel

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A late 7th Century BCE prophecy concerning the destruction and restoration of Jerusalem,
parts of which were quoted by Peter when explaining how some of these words were fulfilled on Pentecost of 33 CE.*

Chapter 1

¹ **These are words of Jehovah that came to JoEl the son of BathuEl.**

² Hear these things, O you elders!
Give ear, all you who live in the land!
Have you seen such things in your [lives]?
Were they seen in the days of your fathers?

³ Describe these things to your children,
And to all generations that follow!
⁴ For, caterpillars ate all there was,
And locusts devoured what they didn't eat;
Then, grasshoppers ate what remained from the locusts,
And what the grasshoppers didn't consume,
Was thereafter destroyed by the blight.

⁵ Now, sober up and start crying,
All you who are drunk from your wine;
For, joy and gladness are gone your mouths,
⁶ Since a powerful and populous nation,
Has arrived in our land.

They have the teeth of a lion,
And their molars are like those of bear cubs.
⁷ They've appointed our grapevines to extinction,
And condemned our fig-trees to splinters.
They have searched for them and then cut them down,
And all of their branches are white.

⁸ So, let's wail like woman wearing sackcloth,
[Who mourns] for the man of her virgin years.
⁹ For the drink offerings and other sacrifices,
Have been removed from [God's Temple].
Yes mourn, O Priests (you who serve at the Altar);
¹⁰ For, all of the fields now lie baren!

And mourn, O land, for the grain is now gone,
Also, the wine has all dried,
And in short supply is the oil...

¹¹ For the farmers have withered away.
Yes, wail for all your possessions,
Since the wheat and barley has been wiped from the fields!

¹² The grapevines [have shriveled and] dried;

Very few fig-trees remain;
The pomegranates, palms, and the melons,
And all the trees in the fields are now dry...
Yes, all that brings joy to sons of men,
Has been taken away!

¹³ So, tie up your [hands] and beat yourselves, Priests...
Yes, wail, O you who serve at the Altar!
Go to bed wearing sackcloth,
You who serve before God;
For, no sacrifices remain,
And there are no longer drink offerings
In the House of your God!

¹⁴ So, call for a period of holy fasts...
Proclaim a solemn assembly!
Gather the elders and all of the people,
To the House of Jehovah, their God,
And all must fervently call to the Lord!

¹⁵ Woe, woe, woe for this time...
Since the Day of the Lord is at hand,
And misery upon misery has reached us.
¹⁶ Before your eyes, the food was destroyed,
As well as all that brings gladness and joy,
To the [people] of God.

¹⁷ In the stables, the cows are now restless,
Since all that they treasure is gone.
All the wine vats have been cut to the ground,
And all the grain is now parched;

¹⁸ So, is there anything left?

The herds of oxen now bawl,
Because they have no more pasture,
And the flocks of sheep are destroyed.

¹⁹ So we'll call out to You, O Jehovah,
For our beautiful fields have been burned,
And flames have consumed their trees.

²⁰ Why, the beasts in the plains are looking to You,
For all their springs have gone dry,
And the desert's beauty has vanished.

Chapter 2

¹ So, sound the trumpets in Zion,
And on the Holy Mountain, proclaim it;
That all in the land should bow to their faces,
For the Day of the Lord is at hand (it is near)!

² It's a day that's gloomy and dark...
It's a day that's cloudy with fog.
And as dawn breaks over the mountains,
[We can see] a vast, mighty people.

Through the ages, such a thing hasn't happened,
And through the years, won't happen again...
From one generation to another.

³ A consuming fire is raging before them,
And all that's behind them is burning.
A paradise of delights lies before them,
But all that's behind is extinction and desert,
From which, no man can escape.

⁴ The sight of them is like horses...
Like cavalry in hot pursuit.
⁵ Theirs is the sound of chariot wheels,
Leaping across mountain tops...
Like the sounds of flames burning stubble,
And like that of a vast, mighty hoard,
Which is prepared for a war.

⁶ Before them, the people will all be destroyed,
And their faces will be like burnt pots.
⁷ For as warriors, they will attack;
And as men of war, they'll then scale the walls.

Each man will go his own way,
And they'll not be turned from their paths...
⁸ But, none will stray far from his brother.

They will come here with shields,
And by their arrows, the people will fall...
For no way will they tire [of their killing].

⁹ They will then capture the city,
And along its walls, they will run.
Into our homes, they'll ascend,
And climb through the windows like thieves.

¹⁰ Before their faces, there'll be just confusion,
And even the skies will be shaken.
The sun and the moon will grow dark,
And the brightness of the stars will decrease.

¹¹ Before his armies, their lord will call out,
For he's leading a great mighty hoard.
His power will be seen in the things that he does;
For, great is the Day of the Lord,
And who can stand to oppose Him?

¹² 'Now run,' says Jehovah, our God!
'Flee to Me with your whole hearts,
Fasting, weeping, and beating your chests!'

¹³ Yes, tear at your hearts, not your clothes,
And turn to Jehovah, your God!
For, He shows mercy and pity...
He's merciful and He's forgiving,
[And He'll overlook] the bad things you've done.

¹⁴ Who knows if He'll stop and consider,
Then change His plans and bless you instead.
So, bring your sacrifices and drink offerings,
To Jehovah, your God!

¹⁵ Then, blow the trumpets in Zion...
Proclaim a [time] of holy fasts...
A day of sacred service must be declared!

¹⁶ Gather all of the people,
And proclaim a holy assembly!
Choose your elders, then gather your young...
Even those that are nursing at breasts!
Call the grooms from their bedrooms,
And the brides from their wedding chambers!

¹⁷ O Priests, you should all start weeping...
Yes, you who serve before God,
There at the base of the Altar.
Then pray, 'Spare Your people, O Lord!
Don't hand them over for scorning,
And to be ruled by the nations!
So the nations will never have reason to ask,
Where now, is your great God?'

¹⁸ O Jehovah, show zeal for Your land,
And show mercy to Your people!

¹⁹ O Jehovah, reply to Your people and say:
'{Look!} I'll send so much grain that you will be full,
As well as much wine and olive oil,
And you'll be scorned by the nations no more!'

²⁰ Say, 'I'll drive away those who have come from the north,
And push them to a dry land.
I'll remove their faces to the farthest of seas,
And their rears to the opposite end,
Where they [will lie] rotting and groaning,
And all that they've done can be seen.'

²¹ So, be courageous O land...
Yes, rejoice and be glad,

For the Lord has been moved to take action!

²² Also take courage, you cattle;
For, pastures will burst from the desert,
And all the trees will bear fruit...
The fig-trees and grapevines will then yield their strength!

²³ Be glad, O children of Zion,
And find joy in Jehovah, your God.
For on righteousness, He will feed you,
And He'll bring the rains, both the early and late,
Just like He's done in the past.

²⁴ Then your threshing-floors will be covered with grain,
As your vats of oil and wine overflow.

²⁵ 'I'll repay you for all of those years,
When your things were devoured by blight...
By the grasshoppers, caterpillars, and locusts,
And by the great army that I sent against you.

²⁶ 'Then, you will eat and be filled,
And you'll praise the Name of your God...
The One who sent you great wonders.
And My people won't meet with disgrace through the age.

²⁷ 'O IsraEl, at that time, you'll come here and know,
That I am here in your midst...
Yes Me, Jehovah, your God!
For there are no Gods other than Me,
And I'll not leave My people disgraced through the age!

²⁸ 'In the last days, I'll pour out My Breath,
And Your sons and daughters will all prophesy,
Your aged men will dream dreams,
And young men in your midst will see visions.

²⁹ 'In those days, I'll pour out My Breath,
Upon My male and female attendants.

³⁰ Miracles, I'll create in the skies...
As I bring fire, smoke and blood to the earth.

³¹ 'The sun will then become dark,
And the moon [will be changed] into blood,
Before the great and apparent,
Coming of the Day of the Lord.

³² 'And all who call on the name of the Lord
Will be saved,' said Jehovah.
'For, to Mount Zion and JeruSalem,
Will come a person who saves,
Announcing good news to all those,
Who have been called by Jehovah.'

Chapter 3

¹ 'For, {Look!} in those days and at that time,
I'll return all those who were captives,
To Judah and to JeruSalem.

² 'Then I'll gather all of the nations,
To the Valley of JehoShaphat;
And on behalf of My people, I'll judge them...
Yes, IsraEl, My inherited [people]...
Those whom I'd scattered among all the nations...
Those among whom I divided My land...
My people, over whom I cast lots...

³ Those who gave their boys to the whores,
And sold the young women for wine (which they drank).

⁴ 'What are you to Me, O Sidon and Tyre,
Or Galilee of the Philistines?
Shouldn't I repay you for the things that you've done...
What reasons did I give you to hate Me?

I'll swiftly bring what's due on your heads;

⁵ For you've taken My silver and gold,
As well as the things that I chose,
Then you carried it all back to your temples!

⁶ And the sons of Judah and JeruSalem,
You've given to the sons of the Greeks...
You pushed them away from your borders.

⁷ 'But Look...

In every place where you sent them,
I will now wake them up,
And lay the payment for them on your heads.

⁸ Then I'll give your sons and your daughters,
To the sons of the Jews.
And many will be taken as captives,
To nations that live far away;
For I Jehovah, have spoken.

⁹ 'Proclaim these things to the nations!
Declare a holy war... yes, wake the soldiers and shout:
[Attack and conquer], O men of war!

¹⁰ *Cut your plows into broadswords,
And beat your scythes into spears!*

Let the weak among you say they are strong,

¹¹ *And attack those nations that live roundabout!*

'Yes, assemble [your armies],
And let your meek become warriors!

¹² Awaken the gentiles and send them,

To the Valley of JehoShaphat;
For there, I will separate nations
(Those that live round-about you),
¹³ And then, I'll send for the scythes,
For the crops are now ready for harvest!
Climb in and tread, for the wine vat is full...
The vats overflow with their badness!

¹⁴ Throughout the valley, [you'll hear] the cries,
Of those about to be punished;
For the Day of the Lord is at hand!

¹⁵ Then the sun and the moon will grow dark,
And all the stars will grow dim.

¹⁶ From Zion, the Lord will then shout...
From JeruSalem, His voice will be heard.

Then the lands and skies will be shaken...
But the Lord will spare all His people.

'I will make the sons of IsraEl strong,

¹⁷ And you'll know that I am Jehovah, your God!

'On Zion, My Holy Mountain, I'll camp,
And JeruSalem will be holy again...
The nations will not overrun her.

¹⁸ 'And in that day;
The mountains will trickle down sweetness;
Milk will flow from the hills;
And from Judah's springs, will flow water.

'Then a spring will flow from My [Temple],
And its waters will become a great river!

¹⁹ 'Egypt will no longer be,
And Edom's land in the plains will be gone;
For, to the sons of Judah, they were unfair,
And they shed righteous blood in their land.

²⁰ 'Through the ages, will Judah be lived in...
Generations of generations, in JeruSalem.

²¹ I'll avenge all the blood that I've not avenged,
And the Lord will then camp on Zion.'

Amos

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A prophecy that was given to the Prophet Amos while he was living in the ten-tribe Kingdom of IsraEl,
concerning the future destruction of many nations that lived around and/or had dealings with his nation,
as well as what would happen to both Judah and IsraEl. According to archaeologists, it was written in 758-BCE.
However, our Bible-based estimates place this closer to 800-BCE.*

Chapter 1

¹ These are the words of Amos [which tell] of things that took place [while he was at] Kiriath JaiRim in Tekoa, and of the things that he saw concerning JeruSalem in the days of UzziAh the king of Judah, and in the days of JeroBoam (son of JoAsh) the king of IsraEl, two years before the earthquake.

² The Lord spoke out of Zion...
From JeruSalem, he spoke and said this:
*Over shepherds' pastures, you'll mourn,
And over the drought on [Mount] Carmel.*

³ And the Lord said:
*'Because of these three godless deeds of Damascus (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For, they used iron saws to saw open,
Those in GileAd with [babies] in their wombs.*

⁴ *'So, to the house of HazaEl, I'll send fire,
And burn the foundations of the sons of Hadad.
Damascus and those in On's plains, I'll destroy;
I'll cut the men of Edem to bits;
And Assyria's best men will be captured, says Jehovah.*

⁶ Then the Lord said:
*'For Gaza's three godless deeds (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For they captured Solomon's captives,
And handed them over to Edom.*

⁷ *'So to Gaza's walls, I'll send fire,
Which will eat her to her foundations.*

⁸ *I'll also destroy those in AshDod;
And from AshKelon, I'll remove a whole tribe.
Then I'll bring My hand against EkRon,
And destroy the remaining Philistines, says Jehovah.*

⁹ And the Lord said:
*'Because of Tyre's three godless deeds (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For they locked away Solomon's captives in Edom...
Forgetting their treaty of brothers.*

¹⁰ *'So, to the walls of Tyre, I'll send fire,*

Which will eat her to her foundations.

¹¹ And the Lord said:

*'Because of Edom's three godless deeds (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For they chased their brothers with swords,
And [cut down] the mothers throughout the land.
They seized [the mothers] by force,
To prove the awesome terror they brought,
And continued to do this until they had won.*

¹² *'So, I will send fire against Teman,
Which will eat her to her foundations.*

¹³ And the Lord said:

*'Because of the three godless deeds
Of the sons of AmMon (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For in GileAd, they had ripped open,
[Women] with [babies] in their wombs,
Just to widen their borders.*

¹⁴ *'So I'll light a fire upon RabBah's walls,
Which will eat her to her foundations.
Then I'll raise cries of war in that day...
And they'll shake in the day she's consumed.*

¹⁵ *Then, into captivity, I'll send her king,
Along with her rulers and priests, says Jehovah.'*

Chapter 2

¹ And Jehovah said:

*Because of Moab's three godless deeds (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For, the king of Edom's bones, they burned into dust.*

² *'So, I will send fire upon Moab,
And it will devour their cities' foundations.
Then, Moab will be left without any strength...
She'll hear cries and the blowing of trumpets.*

³ *'I'll destroy all her judges and rulers...
Yes, I'll kill them all, says Jehovah.'*

⁴ And Jehovah said:

*Because of the three [lawless] deeds
Of the sons of Judah (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For they pushed [aside all My] Laws,
And refused to follow My orders.*

'So, I will cause them to wander,

*And follow the foolish idols they've made,
Whom they've followed [since the time of] their fathers.*

⁵ *'Then, I will send fire upon Judah,
And wipe JeruSalem to her foundations.'*

⁶ *'And Jehovah said:
Because of IsraEl's three godless deeds (and even four),
I won't turn [my] attention from them.
For, from the righteous and needy,
They demanded silver for sandals...
⁷ [Things they need] to walk on the dust of the ground.*

*'They trampled the heads of the poor,
And turned the humble away.
Then, with the very same slaves,
Fathers and sons both had sex,
So they could profane the Name of their God.*

⁸ *'Then, with their old clothes and rough cords,
They erected booths next to My Altar,
Where they drank the wine they'd extorted...
There at the [Temple] of God!*

⁹ *'For them, I had wiped out the Amorites,
Though they'd become strong as the oaks,
And as tall as the cedars...
I removed all the fruit from their boughs,
As well as their roots underneath them.*

¹⁰ *'From the land of Egypt, I took them,
And led them through the desert for the next forty years,
So they could inherit the Amorite's land.*

¹¹ *'Then I took their sons as [my] Prophets,
And their young men as My [Nazarites].
Sons of IsraEl; isn't this what I did, asks Jehovah?*

¹² *'But, to those [Nazarites], you offered wine,
And you told the Prophets not to foretell!*

¹³ *So because of this, I'll roll over you,
Like a wagon loaded with stubble.*

¹⁴ *'Then all hope of flight into exile,
By those who can run, will be lost;
For the strong will not keep their strength,
And no way will the soldiers save their own lives.*

¹⁵ *'Then your bowmen will not be able to stand;
Those fleet of foot won't escape;
Horseman won't save their own lives;*

¹⁶ *The strong won't have mighty hearts;*

And in that day, they'll flee naked, says Jehovah.'

Chapter 3

¹ 'O house of IsraEl;
Listen to these words of Jehovah,
Which He has pronounced against you...
To those tribes that He led from Egypt,
This is what He has declared:

² *'I have known only you,
Among all the tribes of earth;
And because of this (because of your sins),
I will take vengeance upon you!*

³ 'Can two walk together unless they've agreed? No!

⁴ Will a lion roar from the woods,
If he hasn't [caught] any game? No!
Will a cub call out from his lair,
If he hasn't captured his prey? No!

⁵ Will a bird fall to the ground,
If it hasn't [been shot by] a hunter? No!
Will a snare fall closed without catching? No!

⁶ Will the sound of the trumpet be heard in a town,
Without terrorizing its people? No!
Will harm ever come to a city,
Unless it's been sent by Jehovah? No!

⁷ 'There's nothing that God, Jehovah, will do,
Unless it's revealed to His servants, the Prophets.

⁸ So, as when a lion lets out a roar,
And all who hear it are fearful;
When Jehovah God has something to say,
What [Prophet] will not prophesy?

⁹ 'So, you must make this pronouncement,
To Assyria and those down in Egypt!
Tell them to gather on Samaria's hills,
And as they gaze at the wonders within her,
They'll see all the tyranny that's in her midst.

¹⁰ Then, those who treasure misery and injustice,' said the Lord,
'Will not see what is coming.

¹¹ 'So Jehovah, The God, sends this this message:
*Tyre and all that's around it,
Will soon become desolation.
For, I will remove all their strength,
And then, rip their regions to pieces!*

¹² 'Jehovah says:
As a shepherd will pull from the mouth of a lion,

*Two legs or part of an ear;
That's how IsraEl's sons will be ripped
(Those dwelling in Samaria and Damascus),
By a tribe that they haven't known.*

¹³ *'So, listen to this, O you priests...
And to the house of Jacob, proclaim it,
Says Jehovah, the Almighty God!*

¹⁴ *'In the day of My vengeance upon IsraEl,
I'll destroy their altar at BethEl.
Because of the godless things being done,
They'll cut off the horns of the altar,
And then, it will fall to the ground!*

¹⁵ *'I will also send them confusion,
Then I'll strike the bins in their barns,
Where all their harvests are stored.
Their ivory houses, I'll also destroy,
As well as the homes roundabout them, says Jehovah.'*

Chapter 4

¹ *'Hear these words, O heifers of BaShan;
Yes, you in Samaria's mountains...
You who are tyrants to the needy,
And you who trample the poor...
Those poor ones who must beg their masters,
To give them something to drink!*

² *'For, by all that He deems to be holy,
God has sworn against them, this oath:
Look, the days will soon come,
When they'll take you and your families,
And throw you into hot cauldrons.
³ You'll be led away naked in lines,
And they'll scatter [your bones] on Mount Hermon, says Jehovah.*

⁴ *'For, when you went up to BethEl,
You went there to do irreverent things.
And at GilGal, you did even worse...
Though you brought sacrifices in the mornings,
And on the third day, you brought in your tithes;
⁵ Thereafter, you read outside of the Law,
And demanded [special] offerings for confessions.*

*'So against you, I've made this pronouncement...
Because IsraEl's sons have loved all these things;
⁶ To your cities, I will send toothaches,
And I will send famines of bread...
For you left Me and never returned, says Jehovah.*

⁷ 'So I'll hold back the rain on your crops for three months,
Then, I will [send] rain to one town,
But I'll not send rain on another...
I will send rain to one portion,
And not send rain to another,
So it will be very dry in that place.

⁸ 'Then, those from two or three cities,
Will go to one city to drink...
But no way, will they then get filled,
Because they haven't turned back to Me, says Jehovah.

⁹ 'Then I'll strike you with jaundice and fire;
And all the vineyards and gardens you've gained,
As well as groves of olives and figs,
Will be eaten by bugs...
But you still won't turn back [to Me], says Jehovah.

¹⁰ 'Then from Egypt, I'll send you a plague;
And your young men, I'll kill by the sword.
After that, I will take all your horses;
And because this will just make you angry,
Into your camps, I'll send fire...
Yet to Me, you still won't return, says Jehovah.

¹¹ 'Like Sodom and Gomorrah, I'll wipe you away...
I'll make you like coals that are pulled from the flames...
Yet to Me, you still won't return, says Jehovah.

¹² 'Because of such things, O IsraEl;
Both this and that, I'll then do to you,
Until you are ready to call to your God!

¹³ 'Look! I am the one who sends thunder...
I'm the one who created the wind,
And the one who tells men about [God's] concerns.

'For He sends the dawn and the fog,
And He rides across the heights of the earth...
He is Jehovah, the Almighty God!

Chapter 5

¹ 'So, hear the word of Jehovah;
For against you, He sang this lament:
The house of IsraEl will fall,
And thereafter, she will not be raised.

² *IsraEl (the virgin) will trip in her land,*
And there will be no one to lift her.

³ 'For, thus says Jehovah, [her] God:
From the city that a thousand had left,

*[Will return], only a hundred;
And the town from which left a hundred,
Ten from IsraEl's house will return.*

⁴ 'For, thus says Jehovah to the house of IsraEl:
⁵ *Inquire of Me and you'll live!
Do not [travel to] BethEl,
And into GilGal, don't enter...
Don't go the Well of the Oath!
For those going to GilGal will be captured,
And BethEl will be wiped away.*

⁶ 'So inquire of Jehovah and live,
As the house of JoSeph has done,
And then, you won't have to be burned!
For, [fire] will come and consume,
And no one will douse IsraEl's flames.

⁷ 'He's the One who determines what's right from the heights,
And sets righteous [standards] for the lands,
⁸ Yes, He's the One who made everything...
And who made it all very different.

'He's the One who turns shadows into morning,
And day into the darkness of night;
He's the One who calls water out of the seas,
And pours them back on the face of the ground...
He's called Jehovah, the Almighty God.

⁹ 'He's the One who divides the conflicts and strengths,
And sends misery into all the strongholds,
¹⁰ Where they shout at Prophets that come to their gates,
And show hatred for those who speak holy words...
¹¹ Those who strike the poor with their fists,
And steal their choicest of treasures.

'I can see the paneled houses you've built...
Houses in which you won't live.
I can also see the vineyards you've planted...
Vineyards from which you won't drink the wine.

¹² 'For I know all the [bad] things you've done,
And of how you've trampled the righteous...
How you've inflated your prices,
And turned the needy away from your gates.

¹³ And during that time, I silently watched,
As [you were becoming] more evil.

¹⁴ 'Now, ask for the good (not the bad),
So that you will be able to live.
If you'll ask the Almighty to be with you,

He'll provide the things you request,
Whenever you are willing to say:
¹⁵ *We hate what is bad and love what is good!*

'Bring back justice to your [city] gates,
So Jehovah God, the Almighty,
May show mercy on the remnants of JoSeph.

¹⁶ *'These are all of the reasons,
Says Jehovah, the Almighty God,
That you'll beat your chests in your squares,
And saying, Woe [is me] in your streets!*

*'Then the farmers will be called to do mourning...
They'll beat on their chests and they'll wail.*

¹⁷ *They'll know all the ways to beat on their chests;
Because, I will go through their midst, says Jehovah.*

¹⁸ 'Woe to those who wish for the Day of the Lord;
For, after they ask what the Lord's Day will bring,
They'll find that it only brings darkness, not light!

¹⁹ 'It will be as when a man's fleeing a lion,
Or when he's attacked by a bear,
And he rushes back inside his house,
And then, grabs hold of its walls...
Just to be bitten by snakes.

²⁰ 'For the Day of the Lord will bring darkness, not light...
It will bring dimness, not something that's bright!

²¹ *'I have detested and I've pushed away,
All of your holiday feasts...
In your festivals, I [find no delight].*

²² *So, should you bring whole burnt-offerings to Me,
Along with other sacrifices;
I won't receive them in favor,
Or approve of your gifts for salvation.*

²³ *'Take away the sounds of your hymns...
I don't wish to hear the tunes of your psalms!*

²⁴ *For the waters of judgment will pour down upon you,
And the river of righteousness, you will not cross.*

²⁵ *'O house of IsraEl;
You brought Me victims to be sacrificed,
During the forty years in the desert.*

²⁶ *But then, you chose Moloch's tent,
And the star of Raiphan to serve as your gods...
You molded idols of them for yourselves!*

²⁷ *So, beyond Damascus, I'll move you,
Says Jehovah, the Almighty God.'*

Chapter 6

¹ 'Woe to those treating Zion with contempt,
And those who put trust in Samaria's hills...
Those who've harvested heads from the nations...
Those to whom the house of IsraEl has turned.

² 'Now, pass through them all and take a good look;
Travel to Hamath of RabBah,
And to Gath of the Philistines.
Is yours the best of those kingdoms?
Are your borders larger than theirs?

³ 'An evil day will soon come,
To those hanging onto false Sabbaths...
⁴ Those who lie down in their ivory beds,
And waste their lives upon their divans.

'They eat the kids of the flocks,
And suckling young calves from the midst of the herds.

⁵ They clap along as [music] is played,
And think themselves well established
(Not as something that's passing away).

⁶ 'They drink [the best] filtered wine;
They wear the best of colognes;
And about the destruction of JoSeph,
They still remain unconcerned.

⁷ But soon they'll be taken into exile,
And their feasting and lounging will end.

⁸ 'Jehovah swore this oath by Himself:
*Because I abhor all the insults of Jacob,
And I've detested their fortified towns;
I will now lift them away,
Along with all those who live there.*

⁹ *'And if ten should survive in a house,
They will all thereafter die.*

¹⁰ *They'll walk away from their [loved ones],
And not retrieve their bones from their homes.*

*'They'll just ask those in charge of their homes
If any are still left among them;
And they will answer, No longer.
Then, another will say, Just be quiet...
Don't mention the Name of the Lord.*

¹¹ For, {Look!} He's the One who gave them the order,
To strike our mansions with fractures,
And to shred our small homes!

¹² *'Will horses run in the rocks? No!
Will stallions stay silent near mares? No!
Yet, justice you've turned into rage,
And righteous fruit into something that's bitter.*

¹³ *'You were glad [when you heard] bad reports,
And you said, We've grown horns, because of our strength!*

¹⁴ *'So, watch out, O house of IsraEl;
For I'll arouse a nation against you,
Which will [surround you] and then hem you in,
To keep you from fleeing to HamAth,
Or from running to the river in the west.'*

Chapter 7

¹ Then {Look!} the Lord showed me a breed of locusts that arrived early in the morning, led by Gog, the grasshopper king.

² And after these [locusts] devoured all the grass in the land, I said: 'O Lord, please be kind; for, who will raise Jacob again, since so few now remain?' ³ O Lord; please change Your mind about this thing that You're doing!

But the Lord replied, 'That won't happen.'

⁴ Then {Look!} the Lord took me and showed me that he'd called fire down upon them as their punishment... and [this fire] devoured the depths [of the great sea], as well as a portion [of the land]. ⁵ And I said, 'O Lord God, please stop! Who will raise Jacob again, now that so few are left? O Lord, please change your mind about doing this!

⁶ But the Lord replied, 'That won't happen.'

⁷ Then the Lord [took me] and showed me something... {Look!} there was Jehovah standing upon a straight wall holding a plumb line in His hand. ⁸ And the Lord asked me, 'What do you see, Amos?'

And I replied, 'A plumb line.'

Then the Lord said to me:

'{Look!} In the midst of IsraEl, my people,
I will now set a plumb line,
And past it, I will enter no longer.

⁹ 'I'll wipe their shrines to laughter away,
And their sites of mystic rites will lie ruined;
For against the house of [King] JeroBoam,
I will now bring the broadsword.'

¹⁰ And thereafter, AmaziAh (the priest of BethEl) sent [a message] to JeroBoam (the king of IsraEl) saying: 'Amos is hatching a plot against you there in the midst of the house of IsraEl, and there's no way that the land will be able to endure the things that he's saying. ¹¹ For Amos is [telling the people] that JeroBoam will be destroyed by the broadsword, and that IsraEl will be led away from this land as captives.'

¹² Then AmaziAh said to Amos (there in front of everyone): 'Get out of here and go to the land of Judah! Spend the rest of your life there and do all your prophesying there! ¹³ You may no longer prophesy here in BethEl, for this is the sanctuary of the king and the place of his royal palace!'

¹⁴ But I (Amos) replied to AmaziAh: 'I wasn't a Prophet or the son of a Prophet, I was just a herder of sheep and someone who picked the fruit of mulberry trees. ¹⁵ But then the Lord took me away from my sheep and said to me, *Go and prophesy over My people IsraEl!*

¹⁶ 'So now, listen to what Jehovah told me. Because you've warned me not to prophesy over IsraEl, and you've said, *There's no way that armies will be led against the house of Jacob,* ¹⁷ Jehovah said this:

*'Your wife will become a whore in the city,
And your sons and daughters will fall by the sword.
Then they'll measure your land with a plumb line,
And you'll come to your end in a place that's unclean.*

*'For, IsraEl will be led from this land,
And as captives, they'll be carried away.'*

Chapter 8

¹ Then {Look!} the Lord came and showed me the cage of a bird hunter, ² and he asked, 'What do you see, Amos?'

And I replied, 'A bird cage.'

Then the Lord said to me:

*'My people, IsraEl, have come to their end;
For no longer will I overlook them.*

³ *So, screams will come from their stock pens,
As well as from their temple, in that day, says Jehovah.
For there, many [people] will fall,
And to every place, I'll bring silence.*

⁴ 'Hear this, O you destroying the needy,
And you who tyrannize the poor...

⁵ Yes, all of you who keep asking,
*When will the [New Moon] be over,
So we can go back to our trading?
And, When will the Sabbaths be done,
So we can open our [cash drawers],
Then measure out small and [unfairly],
By adding weights as we measure,
And by using unbalanced scales...*

⁶ *So that from the needy and poor,
We can take all the silver,
In return for sandals and [clothes]?''*

⁷ 'Now, Jehovah swore this oath against Jacob's pride:
Do you think I'll forget all these things,

And allow you to see victory? No!

⁸ *'And [He said] concerning these things:
Won't the land be disturbed,
And won't all who live there start mourning?
Their consumption will rise like a river,
And they'll sink as they would in deep water.*

⁹ *'And at that time this will happen, says Jehovah:
The sun will set at midday,
And the land will get dark in the daylight.*

¹⁰ *'Then your holiday feasts will turn into mourning,
And all your songs into wailing.*

*'Upon every loin, I'll bring sackcloth,
And baldness I'll bring upon every head.
I'll appoint them as those who mourn loved ones,
And turn their happy days into times of grief.*

¹¹ *'{Look!} The days are coming, says Jehovah,
When upon this land, I'll send famine.
But it won't be a famine of bread,
Nor a famine of water...
But a famine of hearing the Word of the Lord.*

¹² *'From sea to sea, the waters will shake,
And [people] will run from the north to the east,
Seeking the word of Jehovah.
But then, no way will they find it.*

¹³ *'In that day, all of your pretty virgins
And all your [handsome] young men,
Will be wilting from thirst.*

¹⁴ *'And those who swear oaths by Samaria's Redeemer,
And say, O Dan, as your god lives,
Or, As your god lives, O BeerSheba,
Will fall and not rise again.'*

Chapter 9

¹ Then I saw the Lord standing at the Altar, and he said:
'Strike the Propitiatory and shake all its gates.
Cut off all of their heads,
And kill the rest with the broadsword!
There's no way that they can escape,
And no way that they can be saved!

² 'If they should [hide] in the place of the dead;
My hand will [reach down and] grab them.
And if they should [fly] into the heavens;
From there, I will lead them back down.

³ 'If they should hide on [Mount] Carmel,
I'll search for them there and I'll grab them.
And if they hide from my eyes in the depths of the seas,
I'll send a dragon to bite them.

⁴ 'If their enemies should take them as captives;
I'll instruct their broadswords to kill them...
Yes, it's for the bad, not for the good,
That I have set my eyes on them.

⁵ 'For Jehovah, the Lord God Almighty,
Has grabbed hold of the land and ordered a shaking.
Then, all who dwell there will mourn...
It will rise and fall like the Nile.

⁶ 'For the One who built His [home] in the skies...
The One who founded the earth...
The One who calls water out of the seas,
And pours it back on the land...
The One whose Name is Jehovah, says this:

⁷ *You aren't like sons of Cush before me,
O you sons of IsraEl.
I'm the One who led you from Egypt,
And from the Cappadocian Philistines,
Then from the Syrians of Kir.*

⁸ *'{Look!} My eyes watch the kingdoms of sinners,
Whom I then remove from the face of the earth.
But the one that I won't completely remove,
Is the house of [My servant] Jacob, says Jehovah.*

⁹ *'But, {Look!} I will [soon] issue My orders,
And cause IsraEl's house to be threshed,
[Along with] the rest of the nations,
In the same way you'd winnow with a shovel...
And no broken pieces will [be overlooked].*

¹⁰ *'Then, it will be by the broadsword,
That the sinners among My people will end...
Yes, all of you who now say:
Such bad thing will never approach us...
No, these things won't happen to us!*

¹¹ *'And in that day;
David's tent, which has fallen, will stand once again,
And its [broken] things, I'll rebuild...
The things I cut down, I will raise,
And rebuild it as it once was.*

¹² *'Then, those who are left of the nations,
May inquire of those who have called on My Name, says Jehovah (the One who will do*

all these things).

¹³ *'{Look!} The days are coming, says Jehovah,
When harvests will last to the threshing,
And grapes stay stay ripe until planting.
The mountains will trickle down sweetness,
And [there will be] crops upon all the hills.*

¹⁴ *'Then, I will bring back My people
(Those who were taken away...
The IsraElites who were captured),
And they will rebuild all their cities
(Yes, they will live there again).
Then, they will plant vineyards and drink their own wine...
They will plant gardens and eat their own fruit!*

¹⁵ *'Upon their own ground, I will plant them,
And from this land that I gave them,
They won't be pluck up thereafter, Says Jehovah, The God.'*

Obadiah

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
This is likely a late 7th Century BCE prophecy that was spoken against
the descendants of Isaac's son Esau (the Edomites) concerning their coming destruction
for the bad things they had done to Judah when it was being destroyed.*

Chapter 1

¹ This is the vision of Obadiah.

Jehovah God said this against Edom (I heard this report from Jehovah, and it's a summary of what He sent to the nations):

'{Look!} Arise against her in battle!

² 'Among the nations, I've left you just few,
And upon you, I've brought much disgrace.

³ For, you have made your hearts proud,
By camping high among cracks in the rocks,
And you have said in your hearts,
Who can bring me back down to the ground?

⁴ 'But, if you fly as high as an eagle,
And put your nest among all the stars;
From there, I will lead you back down,' says Jehovah.

⁵ 'If thieves were to enter among you,
Or robbers were to come during the night;
[How many things] would you lose?
Wouldn't they take just the things [that they want]?
And if those who [steal] grapes came among you,
Wouldn't they leave you a gleaning?

⁶ 'But, there will be those who'll search Esau through,
And take all the things that you've hidden away.

⁷ Then, to your borders, they'll drive you,
Where your allies will fight against you and win...
Yes, men with whom you're at peace,
Will then rise up against you,
And they won't understand why they did this.

⁸ 'So, in that day,' says Jehovah,
'I'll destroy all of Edom's wise men;
And in the mountains of Esau,
Understanding won't be anymore.

⁹ 'They'll frighten your Temanite warriors;
And then, from the mountains of Esau,
All the men will be carried away.

¹⁰ 'Because you've been so defiant,
And brought slaughter to Jacob, your brother;

You will be covered with same,
And through the age, you'll be gone.

¹¹ 'For, from the day that you faced and opposed them,
To the day that strangers captured their army,
And foreigners entered their gates,
Who then cast lots for JeruSalem's spoils,
You had the same goal as did they.

¹² 'You shouldn't have [sneered at] your brother,
On the day that those strangers arrived...
You shouldn't have rejoiced at his downfall,
And [approved of the murder] of Judah's sons.

'You shouldn't have [laughed] in the day of their pain,
¹³ And you shouldn't have entered their gates,
On this day of their misery!

'Especially you should never have looked,
Upon them in joy at their ruin.
Nor should you have joined to attack them,
In the day that they were destroyed.

¹⁴ 'In their mountain passes, you shouldn't have stood,
To destroy those who tried to escape,
Nor should you have locked up those fleeing,
In their day of affliction.

¹⁵ 'But now, the Day of the Lord has arrived,
Upon all those nations [that did this].
And now all the [bad] things you did,
Are the things that they'll do to you...
What you did will come upon your own head!

¹⁶ 'So, as you drank wine on My Holy Mount,
The nations will drink wine from you...
Yes, they will swallow you down,
And it'll be as though you never had been.

¹⁷ 'But salvation will come to Mount Zion,
And My Holy Place will be there again.
Then the house of Jacob will inherit,
All those who've inherited them.

¹⁸ 'Like the fire that came upon Jacob's house,
And the flames that came to the house of JoSeph;
The house of Esau will be burned like stubble...
Among them, fire will burn and consume.
There'll be no wheat harvest in Esau,
For I, Jehovah, have spoken.

¹⁹ 'Then the Mountains of Esau will be,

Owned by those who live in the Negev.
And those who live in Philistine Shephela,
Will inherit Ephraim's mountains,
Along with Samaria and BenJamin's plains,
And all of GileAd's land.

²⁰ 'For the sons of IsraEl who will then return,
Will inherit CanaAn's land to ZarEphath.
And those who return to JeruSalem,
Will inherit the Negev all the way to EphRatha.

²¹ 'So, those from Mount Zion who were saved,
Will take vengeance on the mountains of Esau,
And your kingdom will belong to Jehovah.'

Jonah

From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians

This book was likely written in the mid-8th Century BCE. And though it concerns a prophecy against the Assyrian City of Nineveh, it is less a prophecy and more a moral lesson. Is it a true story? Jesus spoke of the trials of Jonah in Matthew 12:39-41, so we assume it to be true.

Chapter 1

¹ The word of Jehovah came to Jonah (the son of AmitTai), saying:

² 'Get up and go to the great city Nineveh,
And there, deliver this proclamation;
For, cries of their evil have reached Me.'

³ But Jonah got up to flee from the face of Jehovah, to Tharsis. So he went down to Joppa and found a boat that was sailing to Tharsis, paid his fare, boarded, and preceded to sail away from the face of Jehovah, to Tharsis.

⁴ Then Jehovah raised a wind upon the sea that created huge swells, and [soon] the boat was in danger of breaking up. ⁵ This made the sailors so fearful that they each started yelling out to their own gods, and they started throwing things into the sea to lighten the load. However, Jonah just went down into the ship's hold, went to sleep, and started snoring.

⁶ Well, the ship's captain went down to him and said, 'Why are you [just lying there] snoring? Get up and call to your God so He'll save us and we won't be destroyed!'

⁷ Then each man started saying to his neighbor: 'Come, let's throw lots so we can determine the reason why this evil has befallen us!'

So they threw lots, and the lot fell to Jonah. ⁸ And they started asking him: '[Do you know] the reason why this evil has come upon us? What do you do for a living... where have you come from... from what kind of place and what kind of people?'

⁹ Then he told them: 'I am a servant of Jehovah, the God of the heavens... I worship the One who made the seas and the dry land.'

¹⁰ Well at that, the men became very fearful and they asked him: 'What did you do' (because the men realized that he was running away)? So he explained [to them all that had happened].

¹¹ Then they asked him: 'What must we do to you in order to calm the sea?' And just as they asked this, the sea rose in a great swell.

¹² So Jonah told them: 'Just pick me up and throw me into the sea... then it will become calm for you. For I know that it's because of me that these great swells have come upon you.'

¹³ Nevertheless, the men pressed on and tried to reach land... but they were unable, for the sea [kept pushing] against them. ¹⁴ So they called out to Jehovah and said: 'Please don't destroy us over the life of this man, because we don't want the blood of the righteous held against us! But for You, O Lord, we'll do whatever You wish.'

¹⁵ So they took Jonah and threw him into the sea... and suddenly the sea became still and stopped tossing about. ¹⁶ As the result, the men became very fearful of Jehovah, and they

made vows to Him and offered sacrifices to Him.

¹⁷ Then Jehovah ordered a great sea creature to swallow Jonah, and he stayed in its belly for three days and three nights.

Chapter 2

¹ There, Jonah prayed to Jehovah his God from the belly of the sea creature, ² saying this:

'In my affliction, I called out to You,
O Jehovah, my God,
And You paid attention to me.
I cried from the belly of the place of the dead,
And from there, You listened to my voice!

³ 'You threw me into the heart of the sea...
Yes, into the depths of its waters,
And by the sea, I was covered.

'Then I asked, as their waves and crests poured upon me,
⁴ *Have I been pushed away from Your eyes...
Will I never see Your Holy Temple again?*

⁵ 'But the water was rolling around me,
And then, it entered my soul...
By the deep, I was encircled,
And my head went under the water.

⁶ 'I went down between mountain fissures...
Through the earth and its bars of the ages.
And I said, *O Jehovah, my God;
Let my soul rise above this corruption!*

⁷ 'Then, as my life was reaching [its end],
You remembered [my bad situation],
For my prayers had ascended to You...
They had reached to Your Holy Temple!

⁸ 'Some pay attention to things that are foolish,
While others will listen to lies,
For, they've given up on Your mercy.

⁹ But, with my voice, I will praise You,
And I offer [this song] as my sacrifice.
I'll do everything that I've promised,
If you will just save me, Jehovah!'

¹⁰ And at that, Jehovah gave orders to the large sea creature, and it vomited Jonah out on dry land.

Chapter 3

¹ And thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to Jonah a second time, saying:

² 'Now, you must get up and go

To the great city of Nineveh,
And proclaim My words over it,
Just as I told you before!

³ So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, just as Jehovah had told him, which took him three days (for God considered Nineveh a great city). ⁴ Then when Jonah entered the city, he spent the day traveling through it proclaiming, 'In just three days, Nineveh will be wiped away!'

⁵ Well, because the men of Nineveh believed in God, they called for a fast and for everyone (from the least to the greatest) to wear sackcloth. ⁶ And when [Jonah's] words reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, removed all his clothes and put on sackcloth, and then he sat in ashes. ⁷ The king and his great men also sent a proclamation throughout Nineveh, that said: 'The people may not eat anything, [nor may they feed] their cattle, oxen, or sheep... they may not eat or drink anything at all! ⁸ And the people are to wrap sackcloth around themselves and their cattle as they all fervently call out to God! Each man must also turn from his wicked ways and from the sins of his hands and say, ⁹ *Who knows if God will change His mind and turn from the anger of His rage, so that we will not perish?*'

¹⁰ Well, when God saw what they were doing and that they had turned from their wicked ways, He changed His mind over the evil that He said He would do to them, and He didn't do it.

Chapter 4

¹ Well, Jonah was very upset and confused by this, ² so he prayed to Jehovah and said: 'O Lord; Wasn't this the same thing that I said [would happen] when I was back in my own land? It was because of something like this that I thought about fleeing to Tharsis! For I knew that because You are kind, sympathetic, lenient, and full of mercy, You'd change Your mind about doing such evil.

³ 'And now, O Master and Lord; please end my life... it's better for me to die than to live!'

⁴ And Jehovah asked: 'Has this [really] grieved you so much?'

⁵ Then Jonah left the city and sat down in front of it... he put up a shelter and sat there, so he could just sit and stare at the city.

⁶ Then Jehovah God provided a gourd [plant] that grew up over Jonah's head to shade him during this bad [time]. And Jonah became very happy and joyful over the gourd [plant]. ⁷ Then early the next morning, God sent a worm that killed the [plant] and dried it up. ⁸ And just as the sun was rising, God sent a burning wind, which (along with the sun) burned Jonah's head. So he became discouraged to the point where he wanted to just resign from life. For he said, 'It's better for me to die than to live!'

⁹ Then God asked Jonah: 'Are you [really] that grieved over the gourd [plant]?'

And he replied: 'Yes, I'm grieved to the point of death!'

¹⁰ And Jehovah said:

'You treated that plant so tenderly...
You nourished and worked hard over it...'

Though it just grew up in one night,
And it perished before the next evening.

"So, shouldn't I spare this great city
Where a hundred and twenty thousand now dwell
(Who don't know their right hand from their left),
Along with all of their cattle?"

Micah

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A prophecy against Samaria (the northern ten-tribe kingdom) and Jerusalem,
which was written around 750-BCE.*

Chapter 1

¹ These words of Jehovah came to MicAh the Morasthite in the days of JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh (kings of Judah), over the things He saw concerning Samaria and JeruSalem.

² 'Hear these words, O you peoples!
Also pay attention, you lands,
And all who are dwelling within you!
For, out of His Holy [Temple],
Jehovah will now testify.

³ {Look!} The Lord will come from His place;
He'll come down and upon the high places,
He will seat Himself in the heights.

⁴ Then the mountains will shake underneath Him,
And like beeswax in fire, the valleys will melt,
Flowing like water that rolls down a slope.

⁵ 'All of these things [will take place],
Because of Jacob's irreverent ways,
And because of the sins of IsraEl's house.

'Isn't Samaria the irreverence of Jacob,
And the sin of Judah, JeruSalem?

⁶ 'So I'll turn Samaria into a barn,
Where the fruits of the fields can be stored,
Along with the [grapes] of the vineyards.
I'll tear down her stones in great chaos,
And her foundations, I'll uncover.

⁷ 'I'll cut her carved idols to pieces;
Her temple whores, I'll burn in a fire,
And appoint her idols to extinction.
For, she hired whores and gathered them there...
So the wages whores, I'll destroy.

⁸ 'For this, she'll wail and beat on her breasts...
She will go barefoot and naked...
She'll beat on her chest like a dragon,
And mourn like the daughters of chained demons.

⁹ 'The calamity upon her, will surely arrive;
For she went to JeruSalem and Judah,
And touched the gates of My people.

¹⁰ 'Now, you in Gath; don't feel that you're special,
Nor should you who live in BakaIm...
Don't laugh as you're trying to rebuild your homes,
For the land will be strewn with your laughter,

¹¹ And no good will come to your cities.

'Those in ZaAnan will beat on their breasts,
On behalf of the houses next door...
They'll be grieved by the things that will happen.

¹² 'Then, who will console her when she is so sad?
For the bad that will come from Jehovah,
Will reach all the way to JeruSalem's gates.

¹³ 'They'll hear the sounds of chariots and riders,
[Attacking] those dwelling in LachIsh.
For, they're the ones who've been taking the lead,
In the sins of the daughters of Zion...
All IsraEl's godless deeds can be found there!

¹⁴ 'Because of this, they'll be carried away,
As the inheritance of Gath.
[They'll be sent] to the poorest of homes,
Where even IsraEl's kings will have little value.

¹⁵ 'Yes, [Gath's] inheritance, they will become...
The people of LachIsh will then be their [slaves].
And off to AdulLam, they will carry,
The glory of IsraEl's daughters.

¹⁶ 'So, shave [the heads of] your beloved young...
Make them as bald as the vultures;
For they'll all be carried away.'

Chapter 2

¹ When they came, they were looking for trouble,
And doing what's bad in their beds.
They did this during the daytime,
And toward God, would not raise their hands.

² Because they desired more fields,
They plundered orphans and tyrannized homes...
They plundered the people and houses...
Both the men and the things they'd inherit.'

³ It's because of this, that thus says Jehovah:
'{Look!} Against their tribe, I'm bringing what's bad,
And no way will they then lift their necks,
Or in any way will they walk erect;
For this will be a bad time for them!

⁴ 'In that day, they will speak these words about you...

They'll raise this lament in a song:

*'In our miserable condition, we knew misery,
For our people were [led off in] lines,
And no one [came] to stop this,
Or to bargain for their return;
So their fields were then divided [as loot].*

⁵ *'Now, no one will measure allotments,
Among the Lord's congregation.*

⁶ *So, weep [many] tears and cry for these things,
Because He won't remove all their scorn.*

⁷ 'And then, they will say this about them:

*'The house of Jacob provoked,
Jehovah's Spirit to rage!
For, isn't this just how He does things...
Aren't all His words good and all His ways straight?*

⁸ '[Through the years], My people have shown,
A hatred and resistance to peace.
So they flayed the skin [of those passing by],
[And brought on themselves] the conflict of war.

⁹ 'Now, the leaders of My people will be thrown from their homes...
They'll be pushed out, because they're so wicked.

So, flee to the mountain of the ages;
¹⁰ Since for you, there will be no rest,
Because you've become unclean and corrupt!

¹¹ 'So you'll run, when no one is chasing,
Because of your lying spirit,
Which trickles upon you like the wine and strong drink,
That comes from the sweat of your people.

¹² 'But after some time, they will return...
Yes, Jacob will be gathered along with the rest...
For I'll search for the remnants of IsraEl.

I'll collect them and then I'll return them,
As sheep that have gone through hard times...
They'll jump away from those men,
And then, in the midst of their pasture,
They will all live as one flock.

¹³ 'They'll [run] though the breach that's before them;
For the gate will be cut so they can escape.
And before them, will travel their king,
As Jehovah will be their [true] leader.'

Chapter 3

- ¹ But now, He says:
'Hear indeed, O you head ones of Jacob,
And those who remain of IsraEl's house!
When will you learn to do what is fair?
- ² 'O you who hate good and search for what's bad;
They'll reach out for you and tear off your skin,
Then rip your flesh from your bones,
- ³ The same as you've eaten the flesh of My people,
And flayed off all of their skin...
As you broke their bones as flesh for the pot,
And as meat for the cauldron.
- ⁴ 'Then, you will cry out to Jehovah,
But, He won't listen to you.
He'll turn His face in that time,
For you just did things that were wicked.'
- ⁵ And thus says the Lord concerning the prophets...
To those misleading His people...
Those clenching their teeth as they proclaim peace,
When [God has put] no [words] in their mouths...
And then, a holy war came upon them.
- ⁶ 'Because [you have spoken] such things;
During the nights, you will not see visions...
You'll just see darkness (not light).
For the sun will set on those prophets,
And the days will darken upon them.
- ⁷ 'Disgrace will come to those who see dreams...
And those telling the future will be ridiculed.
Yes, all will speak badly about them,
And no longer pay them attention.'
- ⁸ However, I will be filled,
With the strength and the Breath of Jehovah,
As well as with His justice and might,
So I can report the irreverence of Jacob,
And speak to IsraEl about all their sins.
- ⁹ Hear all these things, O leaders of Jacob,
And you remnants of IsraEl's house...
You who hate what is fair and twist what is straight...
- ¹⁰ You who've built Zion on blood,
And filled JeruSalem with injustice!
- ¹¹ For her leaders take bribes when they judge;
Her priests require a wage for replies;

And her prophets ask for silver to speak prophecies.
Yet, they still rest on the Lord and they say:
'Isn't Jehovah among us?
There's no way that He'll bring bad upon us!'

¹² And it's for all of these reasons,
That Zion will be plowed like a field;
JeruSalem will become empty barns;
And the Temple Mount will be just a place in the woods.

Chapter 4

¹ But, in the last days,
The Mountain of Jehovah will once more be seen,
Sitting above the rest of the mountains,
Raised higher than all of the hills;
And to it, all the peoples will run.

² Many nations will go there and say:
'Let's ascend the Mountain of Jehovah,
And let's enter the [Temple] of Jacob's God.
For there, He will show us His ways,
And we will then walk in His paths!'

For, Laws will come out of Zion...
And from JeruSalem, the Word of the Lord!

³ Then He'll serve as judge between peoples,
And decide among distant nations.

'Then they'll cut their swords into plows,
And their spears, [they'll beat] into sickles.
Nation won't rise against nation...
Nor will they learn war anymore.

⁴ 'Then, under their grapevines, each one will rest,
And beneath their own fig trees,
For no one will make them afraid anymore.'
(This was said by the mouth of Jehovah the Almighty.)

⁵ Though all the peoples may go their own way;
We will walk in the Name of our God,
From now and into the ages.

⁶ 'It will be in that day,' says Jehovah;
'That I'll gather the one who was broken,
And who was [once] thrown away...
For I'll welcome back those I rejected.

⁷ 'I'll accept this one who was broken,
And I will make a great nation
Of those whom I once pushed away.
From Mount Zion, they'll be ruled by the Lord,

Thereafter and into the ages.

⁸ 'But on you, O tower of the flock...
On you, O JeruSalem's daughter,
And austere daughter of Zion;
The foremost of Babylon's kings,
Will come here and enter your [gates]!

⁹ 'So, why have you learned to do such bad things...
Wasn't there a king here among you,
And has good council all perished?

'So, hang through your birth pangs as one who gives birth...

¹⁰ Hang on and take courage, O daughter of Zion,
Like [a woman] who's about to give birth!

'For what's coming to you is a city,
That will set up its camps in your plains;
And then, to Babylon, they'll take you...
But your God, Jehovah, will save you from there,
And ransom you from your enemy's hands.

¹¹ 'Now, many nations have gathered against you,
And this is what they are saying:
We'll rejoice as our eyes gaze on Zion!

¹² 'Yet, they don't know the ways of Jehovah,
And His council, they don't understand.
For like sheaves [of grain], they'll be gathered,
And on a threshing floor, they'll be piled,

¹³ So that you can get up and thresh them,
O [great] daughter of Zion!
For I'll turn your horns into iron,
And I'll turn your hoofs into brass.

'I will dissolve many peoples,
Then, you will present their abundance...
Yes, all their strength to the Lord of the earth.'

Chapter 5

¹ 'The daughter of Zion has reason to fear,
For upon her, He has decreed war,
And they'll strike IsraEl's tribes on the jaw!

² 'And as for you, O BethLehem,
Of the house of EphRatha
(The few among the thousands of Judah);
From out of you will come forth,
A man who'll be IsraEl's ruler.

'His [roots] are from the most ancient times,
And from the days of the ages.

³ He'll appoint her a time to give birth,
And then, she will [truly] give birth.
For, to the sons of IsraEl, the remnants of their brothers will return.

⁴ 'Then, by the strength of Jehovah,
A shepherd will be raised who'll [watch over] them,
And they'll bask in the glory of the Name of their God,
Which will then be known to the ends of the earth.

⁵ 'This is [the sign that there will be] peace:
When the Assyrians come up to your land,
And when they climb onto your place.

'Then, seven shepherds will be roused against them,
[And whip them] with the eight strokes of men.

⁶ 'They'll shepherd Assyria with a broadsword,
And the land of Nimrod [will serve as] her grave.
For, from the Assyrians, He'll save you,
When against your land, they ascend,
And when they've crossed over your borders.

⁷ 'And the few remaining of Jacob,
Will [be scattered] among many peoples.
But, like the dew that falls from Jehovah,
And like the lambs [that are fed] on wild grass;
They will be gathered by no one,
Nor among sons of men, will they stand.

⁸ 'And though the remnant of Jacob,
Will be [scattered] among all the nations,
And dwell among many peoples;
They'll be like lions among cattle,
And as bear cubs among flocks of sheep.

'They will go through and scatter their prey...
None of which will be saved.

⁹ They will lift their hands against their opponents,
And their enemies will all be destroyed.

¹⁰ 'But [before] that day,' says Jehovah;
'I will destroy all your horses,
And your chariots, I'll also destroy.

¹¹ All the cities in your land, I'll destroy,
And I will remove all your forts.

¹² 'From your hands, I'll wipe [magic] potions,
And there'll be no fortune tellers among you.

¹³ I'll also destroy all the idols you've carved,
And remove the sacred stones from your midst...
You'll [no longer] bow to the works of your hands.

¹⁴ 'I'll cut down all of your sacred poles,
And wipe away all your cities.
¹⁵ Then, in My anger and rage,
I'll send vengeance upon all the nations;
Because, they too failed to listen!'

Chapter 6

¹ Hear indeed, what Jehovah has said!
Arise and plead with the mountains...
Let all the hills hear what He's said!

² Listen, O mountains, to the judgments of God...
You foundations of earth and its valleys!
For between the Lord and His people,
There is a case to be tried...
Because, with IsraEl, He's now at war.

³ 'O My people, what did I do...
Tell Me what trouble I've caused you!
⁴ From the land of Egypt, I led you...
From the house of slaves, I ransomed you back...
And before your face, I had sent you,
Miriam, Aaron, and Moses!'

⁵ My people; remember the plans,
That Moab's King Balak once made against you,
And the answers BalaAm (son of BeOr) was given,
From Shittim all the way to GilGal...
So the righteous ways of the Lord would be known.

⁶ 'How can you conquer Jehovah?
Can you snatch God down from the heights?
With your whole burnt-offerings, can you beat Him...
Or with [the blood of] of one-year-old calves? No!

⁷ 'Will Jehovah [be swayed] by a thousand male sheep,
Or ten thousand hearty winter yearlings? No!
For your sins, can you offer your first-born? No!
Can you offer the first fruits of your bellies,
To cover [the sins] of your souls? No!

⁸ 'To you, He's explained it, O man...
All the things that are good.
This is all that Jehovah requires...
He wants you to be fair and love mercy,
And to be ready to walk with your God!'

⁹ 'The voice of Jehovah is calling to you,
And all fearing His Name will be saved.
So, listen to this, O you tribes:

By whom will your cities be adorned?

¹⁰ Won't the homes of Law breakers be burned,
Along with [the houses] of those who love crime...
All the insolent and the unrighteous?

¹¹ 'Will I overlook your wicked scales,
And your bags of deceptive weights?

¹² Will your irreverent ways be covered by wealth?
And all you liars who live there;
Will your [wicked] tongues [bring praise] to your mouths? No!

¹³ 'For your sins, I'll torment you to extinction;

¹⁴ Then you'll eat and never be filled.
Then I'll banish you, and you will be lost
(No way will you be preserved);
And the survivors, I'll hand to the broadsword.

¹⁵ 'Then, though you will plant, you won't reap;
And though you will also press olives,
You won't anoint with their oil,
Nor will you drink any wine...
For the Law of My people will vanish.

¹⁶ 'The rules of Omri, you've chosen,
And the deeds of the house of Ahab.
Yes, you have chosen their plans,
So as not to be laughed at by others...
Thus, I'm bringing extinction upon you.'

Chapter 7

¹ I'm like a man who gleans in the harvest...
One who gleans grapes before picking,
When no ripe clusters are ready to eat...
I'll need them so I can survive!
Yes, woe is me, O my soul!

² For the upright have all been wiped from the land...
Those who walk straight, no longer exist!
All righteous blood has been squeezed out,
By the oppression of neighbors,
³ And with their hands, they're all doing what's evil.

Your rulers ask you for gifts;
Your judges [give rulings] for bribes...
And this is what your souls have desired!

⁴ So, your good things will all be taken away,
Like a moth chews through woolen clothes,
[For the sake of those] who still walk a straight line...
In the day that You're keeping watch.

O woe; for your punishment has now arrived,
And there will soon be [much] weeping.

⁵ So, don't confide in your friends,
And don't put hope in your leaders!
Watch out for the one who sleeps in your bed...
To her, show nothing at all!

⁶ For sons dishonor their fathers,
And the daughters opposes their own mothers...
It's daughter-in-law against mother-in-law,
And your enemies are those in your homes.

⁷ But, I will look to my Lord;
On my Savior, Jehovah, I'll wait,
And my God will listen to me.

⁸ O my enemies; do not rejoice,
For, though I've fallen, I will arise.
And if I must sit in the darkness,
The Lord will provide me with light.

⁹ I'll endure the rage of Jehovah;
For against Him, I'm also a sinner.
But I'll wait until He sends justice...
Until He shows me His judgments,
And leads me into the light.

Then I'll look to His righteous ways,
¹⁰ And my enemies will also gaze on them.

And those who've seen my shame will then ask,
'So, where is Jehovah, your God?'
[And my God will give this reply:]
'I've examined her with my eyes,
Then I'll trample on her like mud in the streets...'

¹¹ Like mortar on bricks, she'll be wiped away,
And her rules will be gone in that day.

¹² 'Your cities will then all be leveled,
And divided among the Assyrians.
Yes, your fortified cities will be given away,
From Tyre down to the [Nile] river...
From mountain to mountain and sea to sea.

¹³ 'The land will all be destroyed,
Along with [the people] who live there...
It's the fruitage of the things that you've done.'

¹⁴ [O God;]
Tend Your people with Your might rod;
For, they are Your inherited sheep!
But now, they must camp alone in the woods,

And [on the sides] of [Mount] Carmel!

In BaShan and GileAd, may they be fed,
As they were in the days of that age,
¹⁵ When [You led] them from Egypt.

¹⁶ [And the Lord replied:]
'Wonderful things, I'll then show them,
Which the nations will see in disgrace.
For [the nations will lose] all their strength...
They'll place their hands over their mouths,
And they will cover their ears.

¹⁷ Then they'll lick the dust just like snakes,
Who crawl along on the ground.
And by their condition, they'll then be confused.

'By God, they will be amazed.
But, they will learn how to fear Him.
¹⁸ For to what other god can He be compared?'

Now, since You'll remove the unrighteous,
[Please overlook] the irreverence,
Of Your inherited ones who remain...
Hold back Your rage for the things that You've seen,
And please show mercy upon them!

¹⁹ Please turn and show pity upon us...
Sink our unrighteous ways,
And cast our sins in the depths of the seas.

²⁰ Then to Jacob, He will send truth,
And on AbraHam's [seed], He'll show mercy...
This One who swore an oath to our fathers.

Nahum

From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians

This book was written sometime during the mid-7th Century BCE.

It is a proclamation against the Assyrians (the world empire of that period), since it appears as though its people had forgotten the warnings of JonAh. Apparently, Nahum had been carried into exile by the Assyrians, since his home, Alquosh, is located in Assyria, in the same area where the Bible tells us that the 'lost' 10 tribes of IsraEl had been relocated by them.

Chapter 1

¹ The concern over Nineveh. This is the scroll of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

² Because He is very zealous,
Jehovah will not fail to punish...
In His rage, Jehovah will punish,
All those who have stood against Him...
He'll destroy all those who've opposed Him.

³ Jehovah is patient and mighty,
And the [guilty], [He] will not acquit.
His ways are rumbling and final,
And the clouds are as dust under His feet.

⁴ He can squeeze the seas and make them dry,
And He can desolate rivers.
This is how BaShan and CarMel were weakened,
And why Lebanon's blossoms have failed.

⁵ Before Him, the mountains have shaken...
And [before Him], the hills have all trembled.
They rise at His presence throughout the earth,
As do all [the peoples] who dwell there.

⁶ Before His rage, who can stand...
Yes, who can withstand His anger?
For, sovereign rulers melt at His rage,
And even the rocks split apart.

⁷ Yet He's gentle to those who will wait upon Him,
In their day of affliction...
And He knows all those who respect Him.

⁸ Like a downpour, He wipes away and consumes,
All those who're aroused [to oppose Him],
And He chases His enemies into the dark.

⁹ So against Jehovah, what plans can you make?
For, He can wipe you away.
But, He will not punish you twice,
Or punish you for the same [errors].

¹⁰ His enemy's [cities], He will lay bare,
To their very foundations.
Like twisted yews, they'll be burned...

The same as very dry stubble.

¹¹ It's against Jehovah that you have made plans...

Yes, against Him, you've made wicked plans.

¹² So Jehovah (who rules all the waters) says this:

'I will send them away,
And they'll not be heard from again.

¹³ For I'll lift their whips from [your backs],
And take their shackles off of [your hands].'

¹⁴ It was concerning [the Assyrians], that Jehovah said this:

'Your name won't be mentioned again,

For I'll destroy all your idols
(Those that you molded and carved),

Then a time will be set for your funeral,
Which will arrive very soon.

¹⁵ '{Look!} Upon the mountains, he's coming...

The feet of the one who's announcing good news,
And the one with reports about peace!

'So in Judah, declare a holiday [feast],

And you must pay all your vows!

So that never again will they enter [your gates],

Nor again, must they view your corruption.'

Chapter 2

¹ Now He's finished [His work] and He has consumed...

This One who came up and breathed in your face...

This One who [sent] affliction to you!

So, watch the roads and [wrap up] your loins...

Be very manly and strong!

² For Jehovah has taken away,

The haughtiness of Jacob's [tribes],

As well as IsraEl's insolent ways.

And now, He is ready to shake off,

Those who have been shaking you,

And their branches, He'll ruin.

³ He's commanding men who have weapons,

And laugh at fire, because of their might.

Their chariots have now been prepared,

And their horsemen will make many wail.

⁴ Their chariots will wreak havoc along all the roads,

And thereafter, they'll meet in the squares.

The sight of them is like burning lamps,

And lightning [is found in their wake].

⁵ So [Assyria's] mighty will then stop and think,
And in the daytime, they'll flee.
As they leave, they will be feeble,
And between their walls, they will run,
From the troops in the lead, that are coming.

⁶ Then their city gates will be opened wide,
And all their great homes will be ruined...

⁷ Yes, all their supports will lie bare.

Their [women] will appear with their servants,
And like doves, they'll be led away,
To the flutter of their beating hearts.

⁸ Nineveh is a pool amidst waters,
And her men won't resist, they'll just flee,
When no one is paying attention.

⁹ So their silver and gold will be looted...
There are no limits to all that they'll take.
And those looters will then be weighed down,
With [the city's] desirable things.

¹⁰ There'll be thrusting, shaking, and tumult...
Hearts will be breaking and knees will be weak...
Loins will all become loose,
And all faces will look like burned pots!

¹¹ So, where is this great lion's den...
Yes, where is the pasture [where she hides] her cubs...
Where has the [great] lion gone?
She's gone away to be with her cubs,
Who ran when there was nothing to fear.

¹² She's the same lion that once snatched away,
All that her cubs had required.
And for her, the cubs strangled their prey,
Until their den became filled with game...
Their home was filled with the things she had seized.

¹³ 'But look... I'm now the One that's coming against you,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty;
'And all of your army, I'll burn into smoke.
'I'll devour your lions with the broadsword,
And I'll take all the game from your land,
So the things you once did won't be heard of again.'

Chapter 3

¹ O you city of blood,
And of all that is false and unrighteous;
You'll no longer be in charge of the game.

² For the sounds of whips, [you will hear],
And the rumble of [chariot] wheels;
The hot pursuits upon horses,
And the dust that they'll raise with their wheels;
³ The attacks of men riding horses,
And the shine of their swords and the flashing of shields.

Huge multitudes will be slaughtered,
As a great downfall comes upon you.
For, unnumbered nations will come there,
And from [looting and rape], their bodies will tire.

⁴ You're a whore who once brought satisfaction,
And in the making potions, you took the lead.
Then you sold your whoring to the nations,
And your potions, you sold to their tribes.

⁵ 'So look... I'm the One who's against you,'
Says the Almighty Jehovah!
'I will uncover your backside,
And then show all the nations your shame...
Other kingdoms will see your dishonor!

⁶ 'Because of all your uncleanness,
I'll bring what's disgusting upon you,
And I'll use you as an example.

⁷ 'Then, all who see you will leave you and say,
O Nineveh, you great wretched one;
Who will now mourn over you,
And where can they search to send comfort?

⁸ 'So, tune up the strings of your lyres,
And prepare your potions for Amun
([Your God] who inhabits the rivers);
For your walls are surrounded by water,
And from there, you've ruled all the way to the sea.

⁹ 'Though Ethiopia and Egypt have served as your strength,
They'll [be no help] when you're taken away...
There'll just be Libya and the Sudan,
Who will come to your aid.

¹⁰ 'You'll be captured and taken to exile,
And your infant's [heads] will be dashed on the walls.
For your honorable things, they will cast lots,
As your great men are tethered and bound.

¹¹ 'So, you'll be provoked and get drunk,
As from your enemies, you must seek shelter.

¹² But what will happen to those in your forts,
Is the same as what will happen to you.

'For, you will then be the fruit...
And when they start shaking the [tree],
You will fall into the mouths,
Of those who have come to consume you.

¹³ ' {Look!} Your enemies view your [armies] as women,
So they'll burn the bars off your doors,
And open the gates throughout your land!

¹⁴ 'Then, you will draw water from your rivers,
In order to save all your forts!
Yes, tread mortar and mix it with straw...
Then, make it stronger with bricks!

¹⁵ For, fire and the sword will destroy you...
They will consume you like locusts...
And by grasshoppers, you'll be oppressed.

¹⁶ 'Though you once made your trade grow,
Above the stars in the heavens;
Grasshoppers will come and spread [over you]...

¹⁷ Small locusts will leap and consume,
And cover your fences like frost.
Then, as the sun rises, they'll just hop away...
And woe, because you won't know where they've gone!

¹⁸ 'And you, O Assyria's king;
All your shepherds have fallen asleep,
And all your mighty are resting.
Your people [have fled] to the mountains,
And no one is searching for them.

¹⁹ Thus, none will heal your destruction,
And your wounds will soon be inflamed.

'Yet those hearing the message about you,
Are now clapping their hands...
For, to them all, you've done evil things.'

Habakkuk

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A prophecy concerning Jerusalem's destruction by Babylon, written sometime around the middle 7th Century BCE.*

Chapter 1

¹ **These are the things that the Prophet Habakkuk saw:**

² How long, O Lord, must I cry out,
As You don't listen [to me]?
How long should I yell to You over wrong,
As You refuse to bring us salvation?

³ Why have You shown toil and trouble to me,
As you look upon misery and irreverence?
Right opposite me, there's judging going on,
But it is the judge who carries away!

⁴ Because of this, the Law has been shaken,
And in the end, there's no justice;
For the righteous are tyrannized by the godless,
And the justice that comes is perverted!

⁵ 'Look, O you who despise;
Gaze and wonder at wonders,
And thereafter, just pass away!
For I'll do a work in your day,
Which you'll not believe and none can describe.

⁶ '{Look!}' I'll awaken the Chaldean people,
Who'll travel across the breadth of the earth,
And inherit tents not their own.

⁷ '[Their king] is known to be fearsome,
And he [creates] his own justice...
For his only concern is himself.

⁸ 'His horses leap higher than leopards,
And [their teeth] are like those of Arabian wolves.

'His horsemen will make great advances...
They'll spread [their wings] out like eagles,
Which are eager for something to eat.

⁹ 'Upon all those who show no respect,
There will come a consumption
(It will come upon all who oppose him),
And [he'll gather captives] like the sand.

¹⁰ 'Then, among all the kings, he will revel...
The sovereigns will all be his playthings,
And he will mock every fortress...

He'll throw up siege mounds and take them.

¹¹ 'Thereafter, his spirit will change;
For, he will repent and then say,
This power has come from my God!

¹² O Jehovah;
Are You not from days of long ago?
Aren't You my God and my Most Holy One?

O Lord;
No way should we have to die!
Yet, You have ordered up justice...
And I've been shaped for discipline and correction.

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look at bad things,
And You cannot gaze upon evil.
So, how can You look upon those who disdain You?

Why remain silent and watch,
As the impious are consuming the righteous?

¹⁴ Will You leave men like fish in the sea,
Or like things that crawl [on the ground],
Where no one is taking the lead?

¹⁵ [Babylon's king] caught destruction,
And pulled it up with a hook...
He drew it in with his web...
He pulled it up with his dragnet.
And this is why he's rejoicing.

¹⁶ So he'll sacrifice to his dragnet,
And to it, he'll also burn incense.
For by it, he's fattened his portion,
And it provided the choicest of food.

¹⁷ So, will he keep casting his net,
To destroy many nations... not spare them?

Chapter 2

¹ During my watch, I'll stand guard;
I'll climb on the rocks and keep watch,
In order to hear what He'll tell me,
So I'll know what I must reply,
When I am being corrected.

² Then to me, Jehovah said this...
He clearly said, 'Now, write down this vision,
So those who read it can soar.

³ For, it's a vision of [future] times,
And in the end, it will happen.

'Be patient, even if it should seem to be late,

For, it will surely arrive,
And no way will its coming be tardy.

⁴ 'If there's someone who holds back [My words];
In him, My soul finds no favor.
For it's by their faith that the righteous will live!

⁵ 'But, those who are arrogant and hateful,
And any man who's a braggart,
Will receive no [blessings] at all...
For he widens his soul like the grave,
And like death, he never gets filled.

⁶ 'If he should assemble all nations,
And gather their peoples [under his rule];
Wouldn't they say this against him...
Use this riddle against him, and say:

*'Woe to the one who takes what's not his...
How long [can he stand] all the pressure?
⁷ For suddenly, there'll come those who'll bite him...
Yes, those plotting against him, will awaken,
And then, they will saw him in two.*

⁸ *'For, many nations, you've ravaged.
But those that remain, will now ravage you,
Because of all the blood that you've shed,
And the things that you did to their cities and lands...
What you did to all those who lived there.*

⁹ *'O you who've desired such wealth;
Bad things will come to your house.
Yes, you who arranged your nest in the heights,
And whose hands brought evil [to others].*

¹⁰ *'So, you have brought shame upon your own house...
Since, throughout your life, you have sinned,
And you've ended [the lives] of [many great] men.'*

¹¹ *'Now, from your stone walls, I'll yell this,
And the beetles in the woods will repeat it:*

¹² *'Woe to those who build their cities on blood,
And [grow] their towns by doing what's wrong!'*

¹³ Is it not from Jehovah the Almighty,
That so many have been tested by fire,
And the nations have proven faint-hearted?

¹⁴ But, as the waters that cover the seas,
The lands will soon become filled
With knowledge of the glory of [God].

¹⁵ So, you who once forced your neighbors to drink,

Something intoxicating and cloudy,
So that you could gaze on their private parts;
¹⁶ Drink deeply to the glory of your dishonor,
And get extremely excited!

But now, you'll be completely surrounded,
In the cup that's in Jehovah's right hand,
Where your glory will meet its dishonor.

¹⁷ By Lebanon's irreverence, you'll be covered,
And the misery of wild beasts will terrify you,
Because of the blood of men that you've shed,
And the badness within [your] cities and lands,
Along with the [evil] of those dwelling there.

¹⁸ What good are the idols they've carved,
Or the molten castings they've shaped...
The false things they can see [with their eyes]?
Yes, your people rely on things they have shaped...
Yet those idols that they've made cannot speak!

¹⁹ So, woe to those who say to the wood,
'[It's time to] awaken and rise,'
And to things of stone, 'Become great!'
For, they are just things you can look at...
Things you've hammered from silver and gold,
And in whom there's no spirit at all.

²⁰ But, in His Temple, Jehovah's [alive]!
So all lands should bow down before Him!

Chapter 3

¹ **The prayer of Habakkuk (the Prophet) in a song:**

² O Lord;
I heard Your report and I was afraid.
O Jehovah;
I thought of your works and I shook.

You stand between the two beasts,
And in coming years, all will know You...
In the time at hand, You'll be seen.

When my soul becomes angry and disturbed,
You'll think of [me] and show mercy.

³ For, God will come out of Teman,
And from the shadow of Mount Paran,
The Holy One will arrive.

PAUSE

His virtues cover the skies...

His praises fill the [whole] earth...

⁴ And like all light, is His brightness.

In His hands, He carries a trumpet;
And by His might, He sends His love.

⁵ From His face, a word will go forth,
Which will travel from there into the plains.

⁶ And where His feet stand, the [whole] earth will shake.

When He looks upon them, the nations dissolve...

By [His] might, the mountains will break,
And the hills of the ages will melt.

⁷ To the tents of Ethiopian peoples,
I saw distress about to arrive,
And the tents of Midia were also disturbed.

⁸ Were You provoked by their rivers, O Lord...

Did their rivers make You angry,
That against the sea, You took action?

O you who arrived riding horses;
As you ride, are you bringing salvation?

⁹ Jehovah has told you to stretch out...

Yes, against their tents, you must now stretch your bows!

PAUSE

You'll divide their lands by their rivers,

¹⁰ And when they see You, they will have birth pangs.
For You've divided them by their rivers.

Then the abyss will shout to the heights,
When it sees You arriving.

¹¹ For the sun will not rise in the sky,
And the moon won't fail to stand still.
But they'll move by the light of Your arrows...
By the flashes of lightning from Your weapons.

¹² When You threaten, You'll leave few in their lands,
For, in Your rage, You'll break nations.

¹³ But You'll bring salvation to Your people,
And You will save Your anointed.

You'll bring death to the heads of the lawless...
Chains, You'll put on their necks 'til You're done.
So the mighty will be astonished and shaken,
And then, You'll chop off their heads.

PAUSE

¹⁴ Yes, you'll split the heads of the mighty,

And you will cause them to shake.
Then, they will put down their bridles,
And they'll go somewhere to hide,
Where they will eat like the poor.

¹⁵ You led Your horses into the sea,
Which disturbed all its waters...
And as I watched, I was frightened.

¹⁶ On my lips, was the sound of a prayer...
Trembling entered my backside and bones...
Yes, all my ways were disturbed.
But, I will find rest in that day of distress...
When I leave those people to whom I was sent.

¹⁷ Their fig trees will no longer bear,
And there'll be no grapes on their vines.
Their olive trees will be gone,
And there'll be no crops in their fields.

At that time, there will be no sheep,
And there'll be no oxen left in their barns.

¹⁸ But I'll shout in joy to Jehovah...
I'll rejoice over my Savior, God!

¹⁹ For, Jehovah God is my strength,
And He's set straight paths for my feet...
Upon high places, He's set me,
As by His song, I will conquer.

Zephaniah

*From the Greek Septuagint text as used by First Century Christians
A prophecy against Jerusalem, its surrounding countries, and the Assyrians,
which was written around 640-BCE.*

Chapter 1

¹ It was in the eighth month in the second year [of the reign] of Darius that the Word of Jehovah came to Zechariah (the son of Barachiah and grandson of IdDo) the Prophet and said:

² 'The Lord was provoked by your fathers,
And [driven] into great rage;

³ So, tell them that thus Jehovah of Armies:
*Turn to Me, says Jehovah of Armies,
And then, I'll turn back to you.*

⁴ *'Do not become like your fathers...
Those whom the Prophets accused.
For they came beforehand and warned them...
They said that Jehovah of Armies,
Had told them to turn from their wicked ways,
And from the bad things they were doing.
But, they just paid no attention,
And they wouldn't listen to Me, says Jehovah.*

⁵ *'Now, where are your fathers and where are those Prophets...
Have they lived into this age?*

⁶ *You have My words and My Law;
Yes, all that I sent by My Spirit,
Through My servants the Prophets...
Those who were seized by your fathers.*

*'For they gave this reply to [the Prophets]:
Whatever Jehovah of Armies had planned,
Because of our sins and our evil ways,
Has been fulfilled already, upon us!'*

⁷ Well, it was on the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month (the month of Shebat), in the second year [of the reign] of Darius, that the Word of Jehovah came to Zechariah (the son of Barachiah and grandson of IdDo) the Prophet. And this [is how Jeremiah described what he saw]:

⁸ During the night, I looked up and saw a man who was riding a red horse. He was standing in the shade between the mountains, and behind him were red horses with white spots. ⁹ And I asked, 'What are these, O Lord?' And [God's] messenger (the person who was speaking to me) replied,
'I will show you what all these things mean.'

¹⁰ Then the man who was standing in the midst of the mountains spoke to me and said:

'These [men] were sent by Jehovah,
To travel about in the land.'

¹¹ And at that, those who were standing between the mountains said to the messenger of Jehovah:

'We have traveled throughout the whole land,
And {Look!} the land is now tranquil and filled.'

¹² And the messenger of Jehovah said:

'O Jehovah of Armies;
How long will you fail to show mercy,
On JeruSalem and the cities of Judah?
For, this is the seventieth year of Your rage.'

¹³ And the Lord replied to the messenger:

'You, the one who is speaking to Me;
Bring him good words that bring comfort.'

¹⁴ Then the messenger spoke to me and said:

'Now, shout aloud; for, thus says Jehovah the Almighty:
*I have a great zeal for JeruSalem...
Over Zion, I feel very zealous!*

¹⁵ *And I've been provoked by the nations,
Because they have joined to attack you.*

*'But, though you people provoked Me,
They have planned an attack for bad [reasons].*

¹⁶ *And because of this, said the Lord,
For JeruSalem, I'll feel mercy,
And My Temple will then be rebuilt there,
Says Jehovah of Armies.
For on JeruSalem, I'll stretch out a line.'*

¹⁷ [And the messenger then told me]:

'Shout aloud once again!
For Jehovah of Armies said this:
*To your cities, I am now sending good things;
For the Lord will show mercy on Zion,
Since JeruSalem is the one that he chose!'*

¹⁸ Then I raised my eyes and I looked, and what I saw was four trumpets ¹⁹ So I asked the messenger (the one who was speaking to me), 'What are these, O Lord?'

And he replied:

'These are the trumpets...
The ones that sent scattering to Judah,
As well as to IsraEl and JeruSalem.'

²⁰ Then the Lord showed me four workers. ²¹ So I asked, 'What have these come to do?'

And he replied to Me, saying:

'Since those trumpets sent scattering of Judah,

And a breaking upon IsraEl,
So that no one could then raise their heads;
They will throw these trumpets down with their hands...
These horns which the nations have raised,
To scatter the land of Jehovah.'

Chapter 2

¹ Then I raised My eyes and I saw a man; and in his hand was the string of a surveyor. ²
So I asked him, 'Where are you going?'

And he said:
'I will use it to measure JeruSalem...
To determine its length and its width.'

³ Well at that point, {Look!} the messenger who was speaking to me stopped, and another
of [God's] messengers came to meet him. ⁴ And he said:

'Tell him that JeruSalem,
Will be lived in again...
Within her, there'll be crowds of cattle and men.

⁵ 'And [tell him] that Jehovah says this:
*I'll be a wall of fire to surround her,
As well as the glory within her.*

⁶ *So now, flee from the land of the north, says Jehovah;
For I'll gather you from the four winds, said the Lord.*

⁷ *Then, you must run back to Zion...
You who are living among Babylon's daughters.'*

⁸ Then [the messenger said]:
'By Jehovah, I was sent to the nations,
So that I might bring back your glory,
Among all of those who had sacked you.
For, those who have chosen to touch you,
Have touched the pupil of [God's] eye.

⁹ 'So {Look!} against them, I'll now raise my hand,
And they will become the spoils,
Of the ones who had once been their slaves.
And then, you surely will know,
I was sent by Jehovah, the Almighty.

¹⁰ 'So be glad and rejoice, O daughter of Zion;
For, I will come and camp in your midst,' said the Lord.

¹¹ 'And in that day, many nations,
Will come here looking for refuge
Among Jehovah and His people.

'Then, I will camp in your midst,
And you'll know that Jehovah the Almighty,
Was the [One] who sent me to you.

¹² 'Judah will be His inheritance again
(His portion within His holy land),
And His chosen will be JeruSalem.
¹³ So all flesh must now bow to Jehovah;
For, from His holy cloud, He's awakened.'

Chapter 3

¹ Then the Lord showed me JoShua (gr. *Jesus*) the High Priest. And standing before him was the messenger of Jehovah... but the Slanderer was standing to his right and serving as an enemy against him.

² Then [the messenger] of Jehovah said to the Slanderer:
'O Slanderer;
May Jehovah send His reproach upon you...
May the Lord who chose JeruSalem,
Speak condemnation against you!

'Doesn't [Joshua now look like] an ember,
Which has been snatched from the fire?'

³ Well, JoShua was wearing filthy clothes as he was standing there in front of [God's] messenger. ⁴ Then the messenger said to those who were standing before him:

'Remove all of his filthy clothes!'

Then he said:

'{Look!} And after you've removed all that's dirty;
In a full-length robe, you must dress him!'

⁵ Then he said:

'Dress him in the official [robes of a Priest],
And on his head, you must place a clean turban!'

So they dressed him in the official [garments], placed a clean turban on his head, and wrapped the [official] robe around him.

⁶ And thereafter, the messenger of Jehovah stood there and testified to JoShua saying,

⁷ 'Thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:

*If you will walk in My ways,
And keep strict watch on My orders,
I'll [put you in charge of] My [Temple],
And to keep watch on My courtyard.
Then I'll give you [guards] who will pace,
Between other [guards] who'll stand still.*

⁸ 'O JoShua, the High Priest, hear this...'

Yes, you and your neighbors that are sitting before you!
For these men [will serve as] observers of signs;
They'll [sit and] watch as I give to My servant,
Something that will lift him much higher!

⁹ For I'll place a stone before JoShua's face,
And on this stone, there will be seven eyes.

'Look! Then, I will dig [out a courtyard],'
Says Jehovah the Almighty,
'And from there, I will [wipe out] injustice...
In a day, I'll wipe injustice away,
Everywhere throughout the whole land.

¹⁰ 'And then, in that day,' says Jehovah;
'Each one will call to his neighbors and brothers,
From under his grapevines and fig trees.'

Chapter 4

¹ Then the messenger who was speaking to me returned and woke me up in the same way as you would wake up a man who'd been sleeping. ² Then he asked me: 'Now, what do you see?'

And I replied: 'Well when I looked, I saw a gold lampstand and a bowl of oil... there were seven lamps on [the stand] and seven oil funnels for the seven lamps. ³ There were also two olive trees... one was on the right of its bowl, and the other was on its left side.'

⁴ So I asked the messenger who was speaking to me: 'What are these things, O Lord?'

⁵ And the messenger who was speaking to me replied:
'Don't you know what all these things are?'

And I answered: 'No, O my Lord.'

⁶ Then he told me:
'They're the words of Jehovah to ZerubBabel,
And you must say this to him:
*Not by strength or great power;
But, just by My Breath,
Says Jehovah the Almighty.*

⁷ *'So, who are you, O great mountains,
To stand before ZerubBabel's face?
For, he will bring forth the chief cornerstone,
Upon which, He will show favor.'*

⁸ Then the Word of Jehovah came to Me and said:

⁹ 'ZerubBabel's hands that laid the foundation,
Will also be the hands that complete it.
Then you'll know that Jehovah the Almighty,
Was the One who sent Me to you.

¹⁰ 'For, those who've despised the days of small things,
Will rejoice when they see the stone plumb bob,
Held in of ZerubBabel's hands...
The stone with the eyes of Jehovah,
That look upon all the lands.'

¹¹ Then I asked him: 'But what [is the meaning] of the two olive trees... the one to the right of the lampstand and the one on its left?'

¹² And I asked him again (a second time): 'What are these two branches of trees that are next to the handles of gold that are used to do pouring and the gold funnels?'

¹³ Then he spoke and asked:
'Don't you know what they are?'

And I replied: 'No, O Lord.'

¹⁴ And he said:
'These are two sons of the faith (or possibly *anointed ones*),
Who stand beside the Lord of the earth.'

Chapter 5

¹ Then I turned and raised my eyes and saw what looked like a flying sickle. ² And he asked me: 'Now, what do you see?'

And I replied: 'I see a flying sickle... it's twenty forearms long and ten forearms wide!'

³ Then he told me:
'This is the curse...
The one that will go 'cross the face of the earth.
One side brings death to all thieves,
And the other, to all who would lie in a trial.'

⁴ 'For Jehovah, the Almighty, says this:
*I will [soon] send it forth...
I'll send it to thieves who would enter My House,
And to those who would swear false oaths by My Name.
It will enter their houses,
And it will wipe them away...
Along with the woodwork and stones [in their homes].'*

⁵ Then the messenger who was speaking to me came up to me and said:
'Now, raise your eyes and see what is coming!'

⁶ And I asked him: 'What is it?'

And he said:
'What's coming is the measuring basket,
Which will measure the land's unrighteous ways.'

⁷ And look! I have here, a measure of lead.
And look! There's a woman in [that basket]!'

⁸ Then he said:
'This [lead] is their lawless ways!'

And at that, he threw [the lead] at the basket, and it fell into the woman's mouth.

⁹ Then I raised my eyes and I saw two more women coming. Both had wings that were like those of a hoopoe, which were filled with the wind. Then they grabbed the basket and lifted it between the land and the sky.

¹⁰ So I asked the messenger who was speaking to me: 'Where are they taking the basket?'

¹¹ And he told me:
'They're taking it to the land of Babylon,
Where they'll use it to prepare a Temple,
Which they'll put in a place they've prepared there.'

Chapter 6

¹ Then I turned and raised my eyes and I saw four chariots coming from between two mountains... mountains that were made of brass! ² The first chariot [that I saw] was pulled by red horses, the second was pulled by black horses, ³ the third was pulled by white horses, and the fourth was pulled by horses that were spotted dapple gray.

⁴ So I spoke to the messenger and asked him (this one who was speaking to me): 'What are these, O my Lord?'

⁵ And the messenger who was speaking to me replied:
'These are the four winds of the heavens,
And they're going to stand next to the Lord of the earth.

⁶ The black ones will go to the land of the north;
The white ones will follow behind them;
And the spotted are going to the land of the south.'

⁷ Then the dapple-gray ones left, and they went to travel around the whole earth. For he told them:

'Go and travel around the whole earth!'
So they went and traveled throughout all the lands [of the earth].

⁸ Then he yelled out to me and said:
'Look! The ones that are going to the land of the north,
Have brought rest to My rage in the north.'

⁹ Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:
¹⁰ 'Take [silver and gold] from the rulers,
As well as from those who are wealthy,
And from those who have greater knowledge!
[You will find them] in the house of JosiAh (son of ZephaniAh),
Who's just returned from Babylon.

¹¹ 'Then, with the silver and gold, make a crown,
And place it upon JoShua's head
(The son of JoZadek, the High Priest).

¹² And tell him that thus says Jehovah:

*'{Look!} There's a male whose name is The Sprout,
And he will grow from below,
To rebuild the House of Jehovah.*

¹³ *'Then, he will receive all the greatness he needs,
To sit and rule from his throne.
For there'll be a Priest on [God's throne],
And there'll be peace and purpose between [those two roles].*

¹⁴ 'This crown will remain [in the Temple],

As a reminder to those who showed recognition,
And favor to the son of Zephaniah...
This will serve as a psalm in the House of the Lord.

¹⁵ 'And from far away will come those,
Who'll rebuild the [Temple] of Jehovah.
Then you'll know that to you, I was sent,
By the Almighty Jehovah.
And all who hear this will [wish],
That they'd paid much closer attention,
To the voice of Jehovah, their God.'

Chapter 7

¹ It was in the fourth year of [the reign] of King Darius, on the fourth day of the ninth month (which is Chislev), that the Word of Jehovah came to Zechariah. ² For the king had sent Sherezer (as well as Regem and his men) to Bethel to atone [for their sins] before Jehovah. ³ Then they said to the Priests of the [Temple] of Jehovah the Almighty and to the Prophets: 'The holy offering has been brought here again in this fifth month, as it has for a good number of years now.'

⁴ Then the Word of Jehovah of Armies came to me and said:

⁵ 'Speak to the people throughout the land,
And to all of the Priests,
Then tell them [that thus says Jehovah]:

*'In the fifth and seventh months, you have fasted,
And you've beat on your chests for seventy years;
But, during all of this fasting,
Were you indeed fasting to Me?*

⁶ *For, when you are eating and drinking,
Aren't you eating and drinking just for yourselves?*

⁷ *'Aren't these the same words that Jehovah once spoke,
By the [mouths] of the Prophets,
When Jerusalem was being so [blest] ...
When people lived here in her cities,
As well as in her mountains and plains?'*

⁸ And thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to Zechariah and said, ⁹ 'Jehovah the Almighty said this:

*I told them to give righteous judgments...
To show mercy and compassion to their brothers...*

¹⁰ *Not to tyrannize orphans or widows,
Or the needy, or the foreign peoples.
And no matter what harm their brothers may do;
In their hearts, they must not hold grudges.*

¹¹ *But, they resisted and paid no attention...
They turned their backs and just ranted,
Covering their ears, so they couldn't hear.*

¹² *'They set their hearts to resist My persuasion;
To My Laws, they chose not to listen,
Or to the rest of the words that came from their Lord,
Through God's Breath by the hands of the Prophets
(Those whom he'd sent to tell what would happen);
So the rage of the Lord came upon them.*

¹³ *'It's the same as what I told them before:
When they refused to listen to Me,
I would not listen when they called to Me,
Said the Almighty Jehovah.*

¹⁴ *'So among the nations, I threw them
(Nations that they didn't know).
And the land they came from was then wiped away,
So they could never return...
They'd ordered extinction upon their choice land.'*

Chapter 8

¹ Then The Word of Jehovah the Almighty came to me and said:

² *'I've shown zeal for Zion and JeruSalem...
In My rage, I've been jealous for them, ³ said Jehovah.
But to Zion, I will now return,
And in JeruSalem's midst, I will camp;
Then it will be called, The City of Truth,
And The Holy Mountain of Jehovah, the Almighty.*

⁴ *'And after that, Jehovah the Almighty told me to say this:
Old men and women will once again sit,
In JeruSalem's squares,
Each with their canes in their hands...
For, they will have lived many days.
⁵ And the city will also be filled,
With boys and girls who will play in her squares.*

⁶ *'And Jehovah the Almighty said this:
Couldn't this have happened to those who remained...
To those who were left in your days? No!
But, is this something that I cannot do,
Asks Jehovah, the Almighty? No!*

⁷ *'For thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:
{Look!} I'll [return] My people from the lands in the east,
And from the lands in the west.*

⁸ *Yes, I will bring them all back,
And in JeruSalem's midst, they will camp.
Then, they will again be My people,
And in truth and righteousness, I'll be their God.*

⁹ *'Thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:*

*O you who would listen during these days;
Strengthen your hands [to follow] the words,
Which have come from the mouths of the Prophets.
For [they've been the same] since My Temple was founded,
And the day that My Temple was built...
¹⁰ Back when their wages bought nothing,
And nothing was paid for in cattle.*

*'For those who entered and those who went out,
There was only affliction, not peace;
And against their neighbors, I turned every man.*

*¹¹ 'But, I won't treat the few [who remain]
As I did to them in the past,
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.*

*¹² 'Rather, I will send peaceful times;
The grapevines will then produce fruit,
The land will yield its abundance,
And the sky will bring forth its dew...
I'll bring this to those who remain.*

*¹³ 'And as for you, O house of Judah;
Though you were a curse among nations,
I'll send salvation to you,
And you'll be a blessing once more.
But, [you must now] be courageous,
And you must strengthen your hands!*

*¹⁴ 'Thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:
Though I once thought to bring evil upon you,
Because your fathers provoked Me to rage
(And since then, I haven't relented),
Says Jehovah, the Almighty;*

*¹⁵ I've reconsidered and I am now ready,
To do good for those living in Judah,
And for those who live in JeruSalem...
So, you must now be courageous!*

*¹⁶ 'And these are the things you must do:
You must each speak truth to your neighbors;
You must make decisions that bring about peace;
And justice must be returned to your gates!*

*¹⁷ 'Against your neighbors, you must not consider,
Doing any evil that is in your hearts...
And do not love lying oaths!
For, I detest all such things,
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.*

¹⁸ Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

¹⁹ 'You must fast in the fourth and fifth months,
And fast in the seventh and tenth.
Then to Judah, I'll bring joy and gladness,
And you'll carry good things to your holiday feasts.
You'll all be glad, for then there'll be truth...
There'll be peace and love [throughout the land].

²⁰ 'For, thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:
*Many peoples will then come among you,
And there'll be many cities where they can dwell.*

²¹ *Then, in those cities they will gather and say:*
Let's go beg before the face of the Lord...
Let's seek the face of Jehovah...
Yes, we will all go, even me!

²² *'To JeruSalem, these peoples and nations will come,
Seeking the face of Jehovah,
And to beg there before Him.*

²³ 'Thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:
*In those days, ten men from all nations and tongues,
Will come to grab hold of the hem of each Jew,
And this is what they will say:*
We all want to come with you,
Because, we've heard God is with you!"

Chapter 9

¹ 'This is a proclamation... it's the word of Jehovah against the land of HadRach, and against [the city of] Damascus where they offer sacrifices [to him]. For Jehovah examines all men (not just the tribes of IsraEl). ² [This proclamation is also] for HamAth, as well as Sidon and Tyre, since all their people have the same mindset.

³ 'Tyre made a fortress out of herself...
She treasured up silver like dust,
And gathered gold like mud in the streets.
⁴ So, by Jehovah, she will be owned.
He'll strike down her power over the seas,
And she will be burned in a fire.

⁵ 'Then, AshKelon will see this and fear,
And Gaza will also be grieved.
To EkRon, her errors will bring her much shame,
And her kings will then perish from Gaza.

'None will be living in AshKelon,
⁶ And foreign peoples will then live in AshDod;
For, the insolence of the Philistines,
I will soon wipe away...

⁷ I'll remove all the blood from their mouths,
And the disgusting things in their teeth.

'They'll leave their things for your God,
And submit to a Judean general.
Then the things that came to the Jebusi,
Is the same as will come upon EkRon.

⁸ '[For Jehovah said:]
*Then I'll stand in My [Temple] high in the heights,
And I will not leave it again.
No way, will [armies] march on it;
For My eyes will then be keeping watch.*

⁹ '*So rejoice, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, you daughters of JeruSalem!
For {Look!} your king will be coming to you...
The righteous one, who's your savior.*

*'He is [someone who's] gentle,
And on a beast of burden, he'll come...
Yes, even upon a young foal!*

¹⁰ '*Ephraim's chariots, he will destroy,
As well as JeruSalem's horses.
He'll destroy [all the weapons] of warfare...
From the nations, he'll send an abundance and peace.
Then he'll rule to the waters of the [great] sea,
From the rivers and passes throughout your land.*

¹¹ '*Then, by his blood of My Sacred Agreement,
From dry pits, he will ransom your captives...*

¹² '*Those who were captives, he'll settle in forts;
And for each day they'd [been held captives],
He will repay them with double.*

¹³ '*O Judah; I've held you tight to myself...
[Yes, as tight] as you'd hold a bow.*

*'So, Ephraim will be complete once again,
And I'll wake up your children, O Zion,
Against the sons of the Greeks...
Like a warrior's sword, I will use them.*

¹⁴ '*Then Jehovah will be seen as your leader,
And he'll [shoot] His arrows like lightning.
By the Lord Jehovah, a trumpet will blow,
Which will send intimidation upon them.*

¹⁵ '*For Jehovah the Almighty will serve as your shield,
As you bring [destruction] upon them.
Upon them, your [sons] will heap sling stones,
And they'll drink their blood as though wine...
Like basins for the Altar, their bowls will be filled.*

¹⁶ 'In that day, Jehovah will be called your God,
And He'll save the sheep of His people...
They'll be like [gems] in His land.

¹⁷ 'And for all of His that are found to be good,
And for all who are found to be fair;
Young men will then receive all their grain,
And there'll be fragrant wine for the virgins.'

Chapter 10

¹ 'Ask Jehovah for each season's rains
(Both the early and late rains);
For Jehovah will do what's fantastic...
To all their pastures and fields,
He will send winter rains.

² 'Those declaring big things, just bring trouble,
And those who have visions are seeing what's false...
They speak of false dreams and offer no comfort.
So [my people now wander] like sheep...
They're ill and they haven't been healed.

³ 'So [God's] rage was provoked by those shepherds;
And now, He'll visit His lambs.
Yes, Jehovah God the Almighty,
Will visit the house of Judah (His flock).

'And as He has done to His handsome horse,
He'll give them orders for war...

⁴ He will look [down] upon them,
And in His rage, He'll order a bow.

'He will send [armies] against them,
⁵ And their warriors will tread mud in battle.
For Jehovah will [bless] the attack,
And their cavalry will meet with disgrace.

⁶ *'But the house of Judah, I'll strengthen;
And house of JoSeph, I'll save...
Because I love them, I'll save them,
And they'll be as before I disowned them.
Because I am Jehovah their God,
I'll pay attention to them!*

⁷ *'Then they'll be like Ephraim's soldiers...
They'll rejoice in their hearts as with wine.
They'll look at their children in joy,
And rejoice in their hearts over their Lord.*

⁸ *'I'll give them a sign and accept them...
I'll pay their ransom and then they will grow,*

To be as many as they'd been before.

*⁹ Then I'll plant them among all the peoples,
And I'll be remembered by those far away.*

*¹⁰ 'They'll return and nourish their children...
From the land of Egypt, I'll take them;
And from Assyria, I'll bring them back also.
Then to Gilead and Lebanon, I'll send them,
And none will be left behind (no, not one)!*

*¹¹ 'Through the narrows of the sea, they will march;
For, they will strike the sea's waves,
And the rivers will dry to their depths.*

*'Then the insolence of Assyria will vanish,
And Egypt's scepter will then be removed.*

*¹² 'In Jehovah, their God, I will make them strong...
And about His Name, they will boast,' said the Lord.*

Chapter 11

*¹ 'O Lebanon; open your doors,
And let fire devour all your cedars!
² Then, all the pine trees will shriek,
Because the cedars have fallen...
Yes, misery will come to your great ones.*

*'And howl, O you oaks of BaShan!
For the groves where you're planted will all be cut down.*

*³ 'There's the sound of the wailing of shepherds,
Because their greatness is gone.
There's the sound of the roaring of lions,
For, no one's keeping watch at the Jordan.*

*⁴ 'Thus says Jehovah, the Almighty:
Tend the sheep for the slaughter...
⁵ *Those that were bought by the butcher...
And those who have not repented.
For, those who sold them have said:*
Praise the Lord, because we've gained wealth!
And their shepherds have suffered no loss.*

*⁶ 'So, I will not spare those who live here,' said the Lord.
'{Look!}' To his neighbor, I'll hand every man,
And into the hands of his king.
Then, they will divide up their land,
And from their hands, I'll not save them.*

*⁷ 'Then, in Canaan's land, I will tend them...
All these sheep for the slaughter.*

'And I'll take two sticks for myself;
The first one, I will call Beauty,
And the other, I'll call Measured Land...
And then, I will tend all these sheep.

⁸ 'In the first month, I'll take the three shepherds,
And my soul will be heavy against them;
For their souls have roared out against me!

⁹ 'So I told them that won't watch over them...
I'll let those that are dying just die,
And those that are failing just fail...
And let the rest eat the flesh of their neighbors!

¹⁰ 'Then I'll take my stick (the one [I called] Beauty),
And I will throw it away,
To erase [His] Agreement with them.

¹¹ It'll be erased in that day.
And those in Canaan who have guarded my sheep,
Will know that I am The Word of the Lord.

¹² 'And then, I'll tell them to do,
Whatever they find to be good...
Yes, pay my wage or forbid it!
So, they established my wage...
It was thirty pieces of silver.'

¹³ Then the Lord said to me:
'Now, throw it into the [Temple]...
But check to make sure that the [coins] are all pure;
For, this is my [value] before them.'

So [he'll] take the thirty pieces of silver
And throw them into [God's] Temple.

¹⁴ 'That's when my second stick will be thrown
(The one that I called Measured Land),
For I'll wipe away Israel and Judah,
From [the land] that they've [always] owned.'

¹⁵ And the Lord said to Me:
'Now, gather a shepherd's tools for yourself...
The tools of one that's unqualified.

¹⁶ For {Look!} against the land, I'm sending a shepherd...
One who won't visit the [weak],
And one who won't search for the scattered.
Those who are broken, he will not heal,
And those who are well, he won't lead.
He will just [break] all their necks,
And devour their choicest of meats.

¹⁷ 'So, you who are tending to vain things,

And leaving behind all my sheep;
A sword will come against your right arm,
And against your right eye.
Your arm will then become withered,
And your right eye will be blind.'

Chapter 12

¹ 'This is the matter of the Word of Jehovah concerning IsraEl,' said the Lord, 'the One who stretched out the skies, who laid the foundations of the earth, and from Himself, shaped the breath of mankind. He said this:

² *'{Look!} I've appointed JeruSalem's thresholds,
To be shaken by the peoples roundabout them.
Into Judea, they'll come,
And then, they'll surround JeruSalem.*

³ *'And it will be in that day,
That I'll appoint JeruSalem to be a stone,
That is trampled upon by all nations.
For all nations of the earth will [attack] her;
And those who trample upon her,
Will be mocking them and poking fun.*

⁴ *'And in that day, I will also,
Says the Almighty Jehovah;
Strike their horses with wonder,
And drive their riders to ranting.*

*'On the house of Judah, I'll raise My eyes,
And I'll strike all their horses with blindness.*

⁵ *But, Judah's generals will say in their hearts:
JeruSalem's [people are safe],
Under Jehovah, their Almighty God.*

⁶ *'But then, I'll make Judah's generals,
Like burning coals amidst wood,
And as flaming torches in stubble.*

*'They'll devour all those roundabout them,
Both those on the right and those on the left...
But JeruSalem will remain.*

⁷ *'For the Lord will save Judah's tents,
As he did long ago.
And the haughty who live in JeruSalem,
As well as those in Judea,
Won't have any reason to boast,
Or to think of themselves as higher,
Than those of the house of [King] David.*

⁸ *'So the Lord will be the shield in that day,*

*For those who live in JeruSalem.
And in that day, even the weakest,
Will be like David among them.*

*'And the house of David will then come to be,
Like the Temple of God...
As the angel who's standing before them.*

*° 'And it will be in that day;
I'll lift away all the nations
(Those who against JeruSalem, marched).*

*¹⁰ And I'll pour upon David's house,
And upon JeruSalem's people,
The spirit of caring and mercy.*

*'Then they'll turn to Me and beat on their chests,
As someone who beats on his chest,
Over the death of a loved one.
Because they've been disrespectful to Me...
They will then mourn with the grief,
Of someone who's lost his first-born.*

*¹¹ 'On that day, there in JeruSalem;
They will all beat on their chests,
As though they'd lost groves [of fruit trees].*

*¹² And the land will beat on its chest,
For each of the tribes [by its name];
The tribe of David's house by itself,
And all of their wives by themselves;
The tribe of Nathan's house by itself,
And all of their wives by themselves;*

*¹³ The tribe of Levi's house by itself,
And all of their wives by themselves;
The tribe of Simeon's house by itself,
And all of their wives by themselves;*

*¹⁴ And the rest of the tribes by themselves,
And all of their wives by themselves.'*

Chapter 13

*¹ 'In that Day,
All [springs] will then open wide,
For the rinsing and cleansing of David's house,
And for those who live in JeruSalem.*

*² 'And in that Day, it will be,
Says Jehovah of Armies;
The names of their idols, I'll wipe from the land,
So they'll be remembered no more.
And false prophets that have unclean spirits,*

I'll also remove from the land.

*³ 'And if there's a man who still prophesies;
His father and the mother who bore him,
Must tell him that he can no longer live,
Because he's told lies in the Name of the Lord.
Then his father and the mother who bore him,
Will bind him, because he has prophesied.*

*⁴ And it will be in that Day;
Their visions will bring them disgrace,
As will the things that they prophesied.
They'll cover their heads with animal hides,
Because they will know that they've lied.*

*⁵ 'And they'll say, No, I'm not a prophet;
I'm a man who just works the ground...
This is all that I've done since my youth!*

*⁶ 'But, I will then ask them this:
So, what are these wounds in your hands?
And they will give this reply:
They were struck in the house of my loved ones.*

*⁷ 'O broadsword, awaken against [such] a man,
And against the shepherds [who live in] My land,
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.
Strike the shepherds and scatter the sheep...
For against the shepherds, I'm bringing My hand.*

*⁸ 'And in that Day, says Jehovah;
Two-thirds will be wiped out and gone,
But a third will be allowed to remain.*

*'Then I'll try the rest as though trying gold,
And they will call on My Name.
So I'll say to them, You're My people,
And they will say, Jehovah's our God.'*

Chapter 14

*¹ 'Look; The Day of the Lord has approached,
When they will divide up the loot.*

*² To JeruSalem, I'll gather all nations,
And the city will thereafter be captured.*

*'All the homes will be looted,
And all the women will be raped.
Then, half of the city will be led away,
And the [third]... those who are My people,
Will not be destroyed from the [land].*

³ 'Then the Lord will attack all those nations,

In His battle, on the day of the war.

*⁴ 'And in that Day, his feet will then stand,
On the Mount of Olives (to JeruSalem's east).
Then the Mount of Olives will split in two parts...
In halves, in chaos, to the east and the west.
Half of the mount will lean toward the north,
And half will lean toward the south.*

*⁵ 'Then, flee to the valley of My Mountain,
Which [runs] to the [Wadi] AzaEl.
You must flee as in the day of the earthquake,
[Which happened] in the days of UzziAh.*

*'For, at that time, [your Lord] will arrive,
And bring all his Holy Ones with him.*

*⁶ 'There'll be no light in that Day...
There'll be just coldness and ice.*

*⁷ 'But, it will last just one day,
And that Day will be known by the Lord.
There'll be no daytime or night;
But, light will arrive toward the evening.*

*⁸ 'And in that Day;
Living waters will flow from JeruSalem.
Half will flow to the [Dead] Sea,
And half will flow the other direction...
This will happen in the springtime and summer.*

*⁹ 'Then the Lord will be the King of the earth.
For, in that Day, there'll be just one Lord,
And he will have just one name.*

*¹⁰ 'Then, around the land, there'll be deserts...
From JeruSalem south to RemMon and Geba
(Though RamAh will remain in its place);
From the BenJamin Gate to the First Gate,
And the Corner Gate to the Tower of HananeEl;
And from there on to the king's wine vats.*

*¹¹ 'Then, JeruSalem will be a safe place,
And there will be no more danger.*

*¹² 'But, this will be the great downfall...
When the Lord will strike all the peoples,
Who against JeruSalem, marched.
Their flesh will melt as they stand on their feet;
Their eyes will flow from their sockets;
And their tongues will melt in their mouths.*

¹³ 'And in that Day, there will come upon them,

*Astonishing things from Jehovah.
Each will grab hold of his neighbor's hand...
Yes, they'll join hand-to-hand with their neighbors.*

*¹⁴ 'Then, there within JeruSalem,
Judah's people will ready themselves,
To collect the might of those roundabout...
All their silver and gold,
Along with huge numbers of clothes.*

*¹⁵ 'I will bring the downfall of horses and mules,
As well as their camels and burros,
And to all the cattle that's found in their camps...
It'll be a day of great downfall.*

*¹⁶ 'Then, all who remain from the nations,
That marched against JeruSalem,
Will ascend each year to bow to the King
– To the Almighty, Jehovah –
And observe the feast of the Pitching of Tents.*

*¹⁷ 'Then to all who won't come [in that Day],
To bow before the Almighty,
From all the tribes of the earth,
Will have many bad things come upon them,
And they'll not receive any rain.*

*¹⁸ 'And if the tribe of Egypt won't come;
The same downfall will happen to them,
That the Lord will bring to the nations...
Those that would not observe,
The feast of the Pitching of Tents.*

*¹⁹ 'For, this will be Egypt's sin,
As well as the sin of all nations...
When they refuse to ascend,
To observe the feast of the Pitching of Tents.*

*²⁰ 'In that Day, this is what will be [written],
Upon the bridles of their horses:
Holy to Jehovah, the Almighty.*

*'And then the stew pots of Jehovah,
Will be like the bowls in front of the Altar.*

*²¹ And throughout Judah and JeruSalem,
They'll treat the stew pots as holy
To the Almighty Jehovah.
So, all who then bring sacrifices,
Will take them and use them to cook.*

*'And in that Day,
There will be no more Canaanites,*

Who stand before Jehovah of Armies.'

Malachi

*From the Greek Septuagint text as was used by First Century Christians
A prophecy that was spoken against IsraEl and the Jews sometime around the middle 5th Century BCE.*

Chapter 1

¹ This is the matter of the word of Jehovah concerning IsraEl [that came] by the hand of His messenger.

² 'I have loved you,' says Jehovah.
But you've asked, *How have You loved us?*

'Wasn't Esau the brother of Jacob?' asked Jehovah,
'Yet, though I loved Jacob, ³ I disliked [his brother].
So I ordered an end to his borders,
And I gave him a home in the desert.

⁴ 'And because Edom will say,
*Although we've been cut down,
We will return and rebuild our [homes].*
For this,' says Jehovah, the Almighty;
'If they rebuild them, I'll still knock them down;
For *the Lawless Borders*, is what they'll be called,
And *a People Opposed to Jehovah*.

⁵ 'And when your eyes this, you'll say:
*Jehovah has been magnified,
Far beyond IsraEl's borders.*

⁶ 'Fathers are glorified by their sons,
And a servant gives glory to his master;
But, if I'm your father, where is My glory;
And if I'm your Lord, where is [your] fear,'
Asks Jehovah, the Almighty?

'You Priests treat My Name with contempt,
Then you ask how you've shown it dishonor...

⁷ By bringing unclean bread to My Altar!

'Then you ask how you've made it unclean...
You do it when you say My table's unclean,
And treat the things there with contempt.

⁸ 'For, when you offer [a lamb] that is blind;
Isn't this something that's evil?
And when you bring Me the lame or the ill;
Isn't this [something that's] bad?

'Bring it instead to [your king]
(The man who [rules over] you)...
Will he then show special favor?

Yes, when you present it to him,
Will he bestow honor upon you,
Asks Jehovah, the Almighty? 'No!'

⁹ 'Now, repent before the face of your God...
Yes, come before Him and beg!
With all the bad that's been done by your hands,
Should I accept such things from your souls,'
Asks Jehovah, the Almighty? 'No!'

¹⁰ 'So to you, the doors will be closed...
You can't come and ask for My favor,
By igniting a fire on My Altar.

'There is nothing at all that I need from you,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.
'So I will not accept any [gifts] from your hands.

¹¹ 'Among all of the nations
(All from sunrise to sunset),
My Name has been glorified;
To My Name, they also burn incense;
And what they offer before Me is pure!

'My Name is great among all the nations,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.

¹² 'But, you profane it whenever you say,
Jehovah's table's unclean,
And you treat the food that's set before Me,
As something that's worthy of contempt.

¹³ 'For you say, *It is just too much trouble...*
And then, you [sniff in disdain],'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty,
'As you bring Me game and the lame and the ill.

'Yes, such things, you've offered to Me.
But, when I receive such things from your hands,
Do you think that I'll show you favor,'
Asks Jehovah, the Almighty? 'No!'

¹⁴ 'Cursed is the powerful man,
Who has a male [sheep] in his flock,
And whose vow [that was promised] comes due...
Then he offers Me one that's imperfect instead!
For, no one is greater than Me,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty,
'Among the nations, My Name is well-known!'

Chapter 2

¹ 'O Priests, this is what I am saying:

² If you won't listen and take it to heart,
That My Name must be glorified,
Says Jehovah, the Almighty;
'Then, I will send curses upon you...
I will curse all your blessings...
I'll curse it and it will not happen,
If you don't take this message to heart.

³ '{Look!}' The [lamb's] shoulder, I've given as yours;
But, I can still throw its dung in your face...
[I'll give you] manure for your holiday feasts;
And at that time, I'll remove you!

⁴ 'And then, you will know I'm the One,
Who sent these instructions to you...
It's My agreement with Levi,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.

⁵ 'For I made an agreement with him...
An agreement that brings life and peace.
I gave him fear, so he'd fear Me,
And prepared him to give My Name glory.

⁶ 'The law of truth, [I put] in his mouth,
And unrighteous words weren't found on his lips.
Straightforward in peace, he traveled with Me,
And many, he turned from injustice.

⁷ 'So the Priests must safeguard the knowledge,
Which once came from his lips,
And seek the laws that came from his mouth;
For, he has served as an angel,
Of the Almighty Jehovah.

⁸ 'But, you have turned from his ways,
And many, you've turned from the Law...
You've corrupted My sacred agreement with Levi,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty!

⁹ 'So, I have now handed you,
To those whom you view with contempt...
To those whom even the gentiles,
Do not view with respect.
For, you haven't guarded My ways,
And My people, you've turned from My Law.

¹⁰ 'Don't you each have one father?
And weren't you formed by one God?
So, why have you each let your brothers,
Profane My Agreement with your fathers?

¹¹ 'Thus, Judah [will now be] abandoned;

For in IsraEl and JeruSalem,
Disgusting things are now being done.

'Judah has profaned the Lord's holy things
(Things that I [dearly] loved),
When they [turned] to alien gods.

¹² 'So the Lord will destroy those who've done this,
And Jacob's tents will be humbled...
All who bring sacrifices [to God].

¹³ 'Yes, you're the ones who did all these things,
And that's why I've come to hate you;
For you've covered My Altar with tears!

'Upon it, you've brought weeping and moaning,
Because of the troubles you've caused.
And you thought I'd consider your offerings...
Accept them as though they were worthy?

¹⁴ 'So, the time has come when you'll ask Me:
Why have You done this [to us]?
It's because the Lord has served as a witness,
Between you and the wives of your youth
(Yes, [the women] whom you've left).
Yet, they have [long] been your partners...
They're the ones to whom [you've sworn oaths]!

¹⁵ 'Because you're doing such things,
I will not be sending what's good,
With even small portions of My Holy Breath!

'Then you asked:
What more than a seed, does God want?
[I want you to] safeguard your spirit,
And not abandon the wives of your youth!

¹⁶ 'No, don't detest them and send them away,
Then cover it up in your minds,'
Says Jehovah, IsraEl's God.

For, thus says Jehovah, the Almighty God:
'Keep a close watch on your spirits,
And do not abandon [your wives].

¹⁷ 'You provoke the Lord with things that you say;
And you ask, *How have we done this?*
By your saying, *Before Him, the wicked are good...*
He really thinks [kindly] of them,
And, *Where is this God who wants justice?*

Chapter 3

¹ {Look!} I will be sending My messenger,
To prepare the way in front of My face.
Then the lord (the one for whom you've been searching)
Will suddenly arrive at My Temple...
This messenger of [My] Sacred Agreement.

'Look, he's coming,' says Jehovah, the Almighty!

² 'Now, who will endure the Day of his entry;
Yes, when he appears, who can stand?
For he'll enter like fire from a furnace,
And as lye to do washing.

³ 'He'll put his melting pot in a furnace,
As they do when they refine silver;
Then the sons of Levi, he will refine,
And pour them out like silver or gold.

'Before Jehovah, they'll serve,
To offer sacrifices that are righteous.

⁴ And the Lord will be pleased once again,
With the offerings of Judah and JeruSalem,
As He was in the days of the ages,
And in the years of long ago.

⁵ 'Then I'll come against you in judgment,
And against all those who make potions.
I'll also be a swift witness,
Against those committing adultery,
And those who swear false oaths in My Name...
Against those who don't pay those they've hired...
Against those who tyrannize orphans and widows,
And to foreigners, will not give justice.
Yes, these are the ones that don't fear Me,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty...

⁶ 'I'm Jehovah, your God, and I never change!

⁷ 'But you sons of Jacob just won't stay away,
From the sins of your fathers...
You've turned aside and not guarded My Laws.

'Just return to Me and I'll come back to you,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty!

'Yet you ask, *In what ways, must we return?*

⁸ 'Will a man be stomped on by God? No!
Yet, you [are guilty] of stomping on Me!
Then you ask, *How have we been stomping on You?*

'By holding back your first-fruits!

⁹ For you turn and stash them away...
This is how you're stomping on Me!

¹⁰ 'This year has now reached its end,
And you've harvested produce and put it in barns...
But your homes will all soon be ravaged!

'Restore, indeed, what [is due],'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.
'Then, see if I don't open to you,
An outpouring of rain from the skies!

'Then I'll pour My blessings upon you,
Until you've received what's enough.

¹¹ For you, I will set aside food,
And not destroy the fruit of the ground,
Nor will I weaken your grapevines,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.

¹² 'Then all nations will proclaim you as blest,
And your land will be one that's desired,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.

¹³ 'But you've put Me down with your words,' says Jehovah.
'And then, you have dared to ask:
How have we spoken against You?

¹⁴ 'By your saying, *Our service to God is in vain!*
And, Though we have kept His instructions;
Before Him, we still must go begging!

¹⁵ *So, we declare the aliens blest,*
As are those who are breaking the law;
For, they oppose God and still live!

¹⁶ 'Yet, some still talk to their neighbors,
And speak of their fear of Jehovah.
So the Lord pays attention and listens,
And writes [their names] in the scroll,
Of those who show honor and fear His Name.

¹⁷ 'And in that Day, they'll be Mine,'
Says the Almighty Jehovah;
'I'll prepare a procurement and set them aside,
As a man [shows favor] to the son who [obeys].

¹⁸ 'Then you'll turn to look and you'll see,
What will happen to those who are sinners...
The difference between the one serving God,
And the one who prefers not to serve Him.'

Chapter 4

¹ 'For, {Look!} that Day is about to arrive...

And it will burn like an oven...
Against them all, it will blaze.
Then the arrogant and evil-doers,
Will be like stubble that is burned in that Day,'
Says Jehovah of Armies...
'No way will a branch or a root still remain!

² 'But on those who still fear My Name,
The sun of righteous ways will arise,
And healing [will arrive on] its wings.
Then you'll come and leap like young calves,
Which have been spared from the stock pens.

³ 'And on the lawless, you'll trample...
They'll be like ashes under your feet,
In the Day that I have prepared,'
Says Jehovah, the Almighty.

⁴ 'Remember the Law of My servant Moses,
Which I gave to him in that dry place,
As well as the orders and decisions,
Which I gave to IsraEl through him!

⁵ '{Look!} I'll send EliJah, the Prophet,
Before the Great Day of the Lord.

⁶ He'll restore the hearts of fathers to sons,
And the hearts of men to their neighbors...
So I won't have to strike the whole earth.'

