

# ISAIAH

## Conversational Yahveh Covenant

**1:1** Visions Isaiah Ben-Amoz Saw  
 About Judah and Jerusalem  
 During the Reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz,  
 and Hezekiah, Kings of Judah

### Rebellious Judah

**2** Listen, earth and sky, Yahveh says,  
*"I brought up sons,  
 but they've rebelled.*  
**3** An ox knows its owner,  
*and a donkey recognizes its owner's manger,  
 but Israel doesn't know me;  
 my people don't recognize  
 that I'm the One who provided for them."*

**4** Sinful nation,  
 people weighed down with iniquity,  
 offspring of sinners who deal falsely,  
 you've rejected Yahveh,  
 despised the Holy One of Israel,  
 and turned away from him.

**Is 1:1-4**

**5** Where else can he strike you  
 as you just keep on rebelling?  
 Your head is sick;  
 your heart is faint.

**6** There's nothing healthy *in you* from head to toe,  
 just bruises, sores, and open wounds  
 without compress or bandage,  
 or ointment to soften them.

**7** Your country lies in ruins;  
 your towns have been burned.  
 Foreigners stole your crops while you watched;  
 it's a wasteland they've overthrown.

<sup>8</sup>Zion is like a shed in a *deserted* vineyard,  
 like a watchman's hut in an *old* cucumber patch,  
 like a city under siege.

<sup>9</sup>If Yahveh of Hosts hadn't left us a few survivors,  
 we'd be like Sodom and Gomorrah.                   **Is 1:5-9**

<sup>10</sup>Listen to Yahveh's message, rulers in "Sodom";  
 hear our God's teaching, people in "Gomorrah":

<sup>11</sup>"*Why are you offering me all these sacrifices?*  
*I've had enough of your burnt offerings of rams*  
*and the fat of your grain-fed cattle;*  
*I'm not happy with the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats.*

<sup>12</sup>*When you show up to worship me,*  
*who's making you tramp on my courts?*

<sup>13</sup>*Don't keep bringing me your worthless offerings;*  
*I detest their incense.*

*New moons, Sabbaths, scheduled assemblies—*  
*I can't endure any more of your solemn assemblies*  
*mixed with your sinfulness.*

<sup>14</sup>*I despise your new moon celebrations and stated festivals;*  
*they're a drag to me; I'm tired of them.*

<sup>15</sup>*When you spread out your hands, I won't look;*  
*though you offer lots of prayers, I won't be listening;*  
*your spread-out hands have bloodshed on them.*                   **Is 1:10-15**

<sup>16</sup>"*Take baths and get cleaned up;*  
*get your sins out of my sight;*  
*give up doing sinful things.*

<sup>17</sup>*Learn how to do good, seek out justice,*  
*correct ruthless people, defend orphans,*  
*fight for widows' rights.*

<sup>16</sup>"*Take baths and get cleaned up;*  
*get your sins out of my sight.*  
*Give up doing sinful things.*

<sup>17</sup>*Learn how to do good, seek out justice,*  
*correct ruthless people, defend orphans,*  
*fight for widows' rights.*

**18** “Come, now; let’s talk,” Yahveh says.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they can be as white as snow;  
if they’re red like crimson,  
they can be like wool.

**19** If you start obeying me,  
you’ll eat the best in the land.

**20** If you refuse and rebel,  
your enemies’ sword will overwhelm you.”

Yahveh has told you the truth.

**Is 1:16-20**

### Unfaithful Jerusalem

**21** How the once-faithful city has become a prostitute,  
she that used to be full of justice!

Goodness used to lodge there;  
now murdererers do.

**22** Your once-pure silver has turned to dross;  
your drink’s been diluted with water.

**23** Your rulers rebel, your friends steal;  
everybody likes bribes  
and requires kickbacks;  
they don’t defend orphans  
or let widows’ cases come to trial.

**Is 1:21-23**

**24** So the Lord Yahveh of Hosts,  
the Mighty One of Israel, says,

*I avenge myself of my enemies;*  
*I take vengeance on my adversaries;*

**25** *I’ll turn against you;*  
*I’ll smelt away your dross with lye*  
*and remove your impurities.*

**26** *I’ll make your judges like they were at first*  
*and your advisors the way they were in the beginning;*  
*after that, you’ll be called ‘The City of Righteousness,’*  
*‘The Faithful City.’”*

**Is 1:24-26**

**27** Justice will redeem Zion;  
repentance will lead to goodness.

**28** But Yahveh will crush rebels and sinners;

those who forsake him will meet their end.

**29**You'll be ashamed of the sacred terebinth groves you delighted in,  
embarrassed by the gardens you chose *to worship your idols in*;

**30**because you'll be like a terebinth tree with withered leaves  
and a garden with no water.

**31**The strong will become kindling,  
and their *evil* work the spark *that lights it*;  
*everything* will burn up  
with nobody able to put out the fire.                   **Is 1:27-31**

### **Yahveh's Future Reign**

**2:1**A Message Isaiah Ben-Amoz Saw About Judah and Jerusalem

**2**In the last days, the mountain where Yahveh's Temple is,  
will become the tallest mountain;  
it will rise above the hills,  
and nations everywhere will stream into it.

**3**Many nationalities will say,  
*"Let's go up to Yahveh's mountain,  
to the Temple of Jacob's God,  
so he can teach us his ways  
and we can follow his paths,"*  
because the Law will go out from Zion,  
Yahveh's message from Jerusalem.

**4**He'll mediate between nations  
and settle disputes between them;  
they'll hammer their swords into plowshares  
and beat their spears into pruning hooks;  
they won't fight one another  
or train for war anymore.                           **Is 2:1-4**

### **Warning About Coming Judgment**

**5**Come, House of Jacob;  
let's follow the light of Yahveh.

**6**He's abandoned you  
because practices from the east have filled you;  
you use soothsayers like Philistines;  
you strike bargains with foreigners.

**7**Your land has lots of silver and gold;

there's no limit to your treasures;  
 you own lots of horses  
 and countless chariots.

**8**Your country is full of idols;  
 you worship your own creations,  
 what your fingers have made.

**Is 2:5-8**

**9**So the common people will be humbled,  
 important ones abased;  
 don't forgive them.

**10**Get inside caves and hide underground  
 from **the terror Yahveh's bringing**  
**and the splendor of his majesty.**

**11****He'll abase arrogant people**  
**and humble haughty ones;**  
**he alone will be honored then.**

**Is 2:9-11**

**12**Yahveh of Hosts has set a time for reckoning,  
 for everybody that's proud and arrogant,  
 for everybody that's pompous and aloof  
 so they can be abased,

**13**for the tall cedars of Lebanon and oaks of Bashan,

**14**for high mountains and lofty hills,

**15**for every high tower and fortified wall,

**16**for the ships of Tarshish and their beautiful crafts.

**17****Yahveh will humble the haughty**  
**and abase the arrogant;**  
**he alone will be honored then;**

**18**idols will disappear.

**19**People **will hide in caves in the rocks**  
 and holes underground  
**in anticipation of the terror Yahveh's bringing**  
**and the splendor of his majesty**  
**when he takes action that makes the ground quake.**

**20**At that time, they'll toss to the moles and bats  
 the silver and gold idols they made to worship;

**21**they **will hide in the caves in the rocks**  
 and clefts in the cliffs  
**in anticipation of the terror Yahveh's bringing**

**and the splendor of his majesty  
when he takes action that makes the ground quake.**

**<sup>22</sup>Stop trusting in people who breathe;  
why depend on them?**

**Is 2:12-22**

### **Judgment Against Judah**

**3:<sup>1</sup>The Lord Yahveh of Hosts will remove  
food and water from Judah and Jerusalem,  
<sup>2</sup>strong men and soldiers, judges and prophets,  
fortunetellers and elders,  
<sup>3</sup>captains of 50 and their men,  
advisors, expert magicians, and skilled astrologers.**

**<sup>4</sup>“I’ll make boys their officials,  
babies their rulers;  
<sup>5</sup>people will oppress one another,  
neighbor against neighbor;  
youths will insult elders;  
inferiors will be rude to honorable citizens.” Is 3:1-5**

**<sup>6</sup>At that time, a man will grab his brother and say,  
“You have a mantle; be our leader;  
rule this pile of ruins.”**

**<sup>7</sup>But he’ll protest,  
“I won’t be your leader;  
I don’t have a mantel or extra food at home;  
don’t expect me to lead you.”**

**<sup>8</sup>Jerusalem will stumble, Judah will fall,  
because their words and deeds oppose Yahveh.  
They’ve rebelled against his glorious presence.**

**<sup>9</sup>Even the looks on their faces give them away;  
they show their sin like Sodom;  
they don’t even try to hide it;  
they’re doomed by the disaster they’ve brought on themselves.**

**<sup>10</sup>Tell good people it’ll go well with them;  
they’ll eat what their efforts produce.**

**<sup>11</sup>But doom awaits the wicked! It’ll be bad for them  
because they’ll get what they deserve.**

**<sup>12</sup>Children oppress my people;**

women rule them.  
 My people's guides get them lost;  
 they give them wrong directions.                   **Is 3:6-12**

**13**Yahveh is getting up to contend *in court*,  
 to render verdict against the people.  
**14**He's going to sue the officials of his people:  
*"You're the ones that have ruined my vineyard;*  
*plunder from poor people sits in your houses;*  
**15***what do you mean crushing my people,*  
*grinding their faces in the dirt?"*

the Lord Yahveh of Hosts says.  
**Is 3:13-15**

### From Beauty to Ruin

**16***"Because the young women of Zion are proud  
 and walk with heads held high and flirting eyes,  
 because they prance along with dainty steps  
 and tinkle the bangles on their feet,*  
**17***I'll strike their scalps with scabs  
 and shave off their eyebrows.*                   **Is 3:16-17**

**18***I'll take away their pretty anklets, headbands, and crescent necklaces;*  
**19***dangling earrings, bracelets, and veils; 20 headdresses and ankle  
 bracelets; sashes, perfume boxes, and charms; 21 finger rings and nose  
 rings; 22 fine robes, gowns, capes, and handbags; 23 hand mirrors, linen  
 clothes, tiaras, and shawls.*

**24***Instead of sweet perfume, there'll be stench;  
 instead of a girdle, a rope;  
 instead of permed hair, baldness;  
 instead of a fine robe, burlap;  
 and instead of beauty, branding.*

**25***The young men of Israel will fall by the sword;  
 the strong will die in battle.*

**26***The city gates will hang in lament and mourning;  
 Jerusalem will sit on the ground like a raped woman."*

**Is 3:18-26**

### Yahveh's Branch

**4:1**At that time, seven widows will grab hold of one man and say, "We'll provide our own food and clothes. Just let us take your name so we won't be old maids!"

<sup>2</sup>But at that time, Yahveh's branch will be beautiful and glorious. What the ground produces will be the pride and joy of Israel's survivors. <sup>3</sup>The remnant in Zion and Jerusalem will be holy, everybody that's in his record books for living there. <sup>4</sup>When Yahveh has washed the grime off of Zion's inhabitants and cleaned up the bloodstains in Jerusalem by the spirit of judgment and burning, <sup>5</sup>then he'll create over Mount Zion and its assemblies a cloud of smoke during the day, a bright blazing fire at night, and a canopy above the glory. <sup>6</sup>It'll be shade from daytime heat and shelter from storms and rain.

Is 4:1-6

### The Song of the Vineyard

<sup>5:1</sup>For the one I love, let me sing a song about his vineyard:

The one I love had a vineyard on a fertile hill.  
<sup>2</sup>He spaded up the ground, picked up the rocks,  
     and planted the best grapevines in it;  
 he built a tower there  
     and hewed out a *stone* wine vat;  
 he expected it to produce *good* grapes,  
     but it produced wild ones.

Is 5:1-2

<sup>3</sup>"*People in Judah and Jerusalem,  
     judge between me and my vineyard.*  
<sup>4</sup>*What could I have done for it that I didn't do?  
     Why did it produce bitter grapes instead of sweet ones?*

<sup>5</sup>*Let me tell you what I'm going to do with it:  
     I'll cut down the hedge around it and burn it;  
     I'll tear down the wall  
         and let animals trample it.*

<sup>6</sup>*I won't take care of it, prune it, or hoe it;  
     briars and thorns will take it over;  
     I'll tell the clouds not to rain on it anymore."*     Is 5:3-6

<sup>7</sup>Israel is Yahveh's vineyard;  
     the people in Judah are his delightful garden;  
     so he looked for justice but *saw* bloodshed;  
     *he expected* goodness but *heard* cries of distress.

### Judah's Guilt and Judgment

<sup>8</sup>Misfortune awaits you that buy up houses and fields  
     till there's none left to buy,

and you're living alone.

<sup>9</sup>I've heard Yahveh of Hosts swear,

*"Lots of houses will be empty, even big, nice ones;*

<sup>10</sup>*ten acres of vineyard will only produce 9 gallons <sup>1 bath</sup> of wine;*

*11 bushels <sup>1 homer</sup> of seed will only yield 1.1 bushels <sup>1 ephah</sup> of grain."*

<sup>11</sup>Misfortune awaits those who get up early to drink alcohol

and stay up late to get drunk on wine.

<sup>12</sup>Their banquets feature lyres and harps,

tambourines and flutes—and wine;

but they give no thought to Yahveh

or pay attention to what he's doing.

Is 5:7-12

<sup>13</sup>So my people will go into exile for ignoring me;

their honored ones will starve;

their common people will be parched with thirst.

<sup>14</sup>Sheol will increase its appetite and eat its fill;

Jerusalem's nobles and celebrating throngs will go down to it.

<sup>15</sup>Commoners will be humbled,

important people abased,

proud ones brought low.

<sup>16</sup>But Yahveh of Hosts will be exalted by *his* judgments;

the holy God will display his holiness by *his* goodness.

<sup>17</sup>Then lambs will graze in their pasture;

foreigners will eat among the ruins of the wealthy.

Is 5:13-17

<sup>18</sup>Misfortune awaits those who pull iniquity

behind them with ropes made out of lies,

who harness falsehood

and hook up their carts to sin,

<sup>19</sup>who say, "*Let the Holy One of Israel hurry*

*so we can see what he's doing;*

*let his purpose come close*

*so we can find out what it is!"*

<sup>20</sup>Misfortune awaits those

who call bad good and good bad,

who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness,

who replace bitter with sweet and sweet with bitter.

<sup>21</sup>Misfortune's in store for people that think they're smart,

that consider themselves clever.

**22**Misfortune comes on winners at wine drinking  
and champions at mixing drinks,  
**23**who acquit the guilty for a bribe  
and deprive the innocent of justice.

**Is 5:18-23**

**24**So, like a flame ignites stubble  
and dry grass shrivels up in fire,  
their roots will rot,  
and their blossoms will go up like smoke.

They've rejected Yahveh's Law  
and despised the message of the Holy One of Israel;

**25**so his anger has burned against his people,  
and he's reached out to strike them down.

The mountains quake;  
corpses litter the streets like garbage.

**His anger hasn't turned away;**  
**his fist is still raised.**

**Is 5:24-25**

**26**He'll signal to a far-off country;  
he'll whistle for it to come from a remote land  
and to do it swiftly and soon.

**27**Nobody from there will get tired or stumble,  
rest or sleep;  
there won't be one loose belt or broken sandal strap.

**28**Its arrows will be sharp; its bows bent;  
its horses' hoofs will spark like flint;  
its *chariot* wheels will spin like tornadoes.

**29**It will roar like a lioness, like a young lion;  
it'll growl when it seizes prey and carries it off;  
nobody will be able stop it.

**30**It will growl over its prey like the ocean roars;  
on land, there'll be darkness and distress;  
clouds will block out the light.

**Is 5:26-30**

## **Isaiah's Call and Cleansing**

**6:1**The year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a high throne, and his train filled the Temple. **2**Seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings: two covered their faces, two covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3**One shouted to the other,

*“Holy, Holy, Holy is Yahveh of Hosts;  
the whole world is full of his glory.”*

**4**The thresholds shook when he shouted, and smoke filled the Temple. **5**I said,

*“I’m doomed! I’m lost,  
a man with unclean lips  
living among people with unclean lips,  
and I’ve seen the King, Yahveh of Hosts!”*

Is 6:1-5

**6**One seraph flew to me with a burning coal he’d taken off the altar with tongs. **7**He touched my mouth with it and said, “*That has taken away your guilt; your sin’s forgiven.*”

**8**Then I heard the Lord say, “*Who will I send? Who’ll go for us?*”

I said, “*I’ll go; send me.*”

**9**He said,

*“Go tell this nation:  
‘Keep listening, but don’t understand anything;  
keep looking, but don’t perceive anything.*

**10***Harden your hearts,  
be hard of hearing,  
and shut your eyes  
so you can’t see or hear,  
understand and repent,  
and be healed.”*

Is 6:6-10

**11**I said, “*How long, Lord?*”

*“Till the towns are deserted,  
the houses are empty,  
and the land’s forsaken;*

**12***till I’ve taken the people far away  
and leave the land largely abandoned.*

**13***A tenth of it will survive*

*only to be invaded again and burned;  
like a terebinth tree or oak  
whose stump is still standing after it’s cut down,  
the stump will be Israel’s holy seed.”*

Is 6:11-13

## A Message for Ahaz

**7:1** At the time of Ahaz Ben-Jotham Ben-Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah Ben-Remaliah, king of Israel, attacked Jerusalem but couldn't take it. **2** When the news reached Judah's royal court that Syria was in league with Ephraim, their hearts sank, and they shook like trees in the wind.

**3** Yahveh said to Isaiah,

“Take your son Shear-jashub [A remnant will return] and go meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct that supplies the Upper Pool on the road to the Fuller’s Field. **4-6** Tell him not to worry about Rezin and Remaliah’s son. He doesn’t need to be afraid or fainthearted over the fierce anger of those two smoldering sticks. True, they’re plotting to attack Judah and install Tabeel as king there. **7-9** But that’s not going to happen. Syria’s headquarters is in Damascus, led by Rezin; Ephraim’s headquarters is in Samaria, led by Remaliah. Just trust me, and I’ll make you outlast them. In 65 years, Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people.”

**Is 7:1-9**

**10** Yahveh spoke to Ahaz again, **11** “Ask me for a sign that’s as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.”

**12** But Ahaz said, “I’m not going to do that.”

**13** So Isaiah said,

“Listen, David’s dynasty! Is trying people’s patience not enough that you try God’s patience too? **14** So Yahveh will give you<sup>p1</sup> his own sign: a virgin will have a son she’ll call Immanuel [God is with us]. **15** Before he’s old enough to eat curds and honey, refuse evil and choose good, **16** the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. **17** The Lord will bring on you, your people, and your ancestor’s dynasty such a time as has never come since Ephraim seceded from Judah: the king of Assyria. **18** Yahveh will whistle for a fly at the mouth of the rivers of Egypt and for a bee in Assyria. **19** They’ll come and light in the steep ravines, in the cracks in the rocks, on the thorns, and in the pastures. **20** Yahveh will shave Israel’s head, legs, and beard with a “razor” he’ll hire from beyond the Euphrates: the king of Assyria.

**Is 7:10-20**

**21** “At that time, a farmer may still have a cow and a couple sheep. **22** Nevertheless, they’ll give enough for him and the few left in the land to eat curds and honey. **23** Briars and thorns will take over a vineyard that used to have 1,000 vines, worth 25 lbs <sup>1,000 shekels</sup> of silver. **24** People will go there to hunt with bows and arrows because briars and thorns will overrun the country. **25** People won’t go to the hills where they used to hoe garden plots, because they’ll want to avoid the briars and thorns. That’s where cattle will pasture, and sheep will trample.”

**Is 7:21-25**

## Assyria's Coming Invasion

**8:1** Then Yahveh told me, “Take a large tablet and etch on it in standard letters ‘Maher-shalal-hash-baz’ [quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil].” **2**I got reputable men to witness it: Uriah the priest and Zechariah Ben-Jeberechiah. **3**So I had relations with my wife the prophetess, and she had a son. Yahveh told me,

“Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz, **4**because before he knows how to say ‘daddy’ or ‘mommy,’ the king of Assyria will ‘carry away the wealth’ in Damascus and ‘the spoil’ in Samaria.”

**5**Yahveh spoke to me again,

**6**“These people have rejected the water at Shiloah that flows gently and admire Rezin and Remaliah’s son. **7**So I’ll flood them with the powerful, abundant ‘water’ of the Euphrates River—the king of Assyria and all his glory. It will overflow its banks, **8**surge into Judah, flood it, and wash on through. It will get neck deep over your whole land, Immanuel.

**Is 8:1-8**

**9**“Be broken, nations, and terrified;  
listen, distant lands;  
gird up, but you’ll be crushed;  
gird up, but you’ll be crushed.

**10**Devise a battle plan, it’ll be thwarted;  
develop a strategy, it won’t stand,  
because ‘God is with us’ [Immanuel].”

**Is 8:9-10**

## Trust the LORD

**11**Yahveh warned me strictly not to think the way this country thinks:

**12**“Don’t suppose everything’s a conspiracy that they do or fear everything they fear or dread what they dread. **13**Fear Yahveh of Hosts, the One you consider holy. **14**He’ll be your sanctuary. To both houses of Israel, he’ll be a stone to stub your toe on, a rock to trip over, a snare and a trap for the people in Jerusalem. **15**Many will trip on it, fall down, and shatter. They’ll be caught in a snare.”

**16**Preserve the testimony; entrust the teaching to my disciples. **17**I’ll wait for Yahveh that’s turned away from Jacob’s descendants. I’ll diligently depend on him. **18**I and the children Yahveh has given me serve as signs and warnings to Israel from Yahveh of Hosts, who lives on Mount Zion.

**Is 8:11-18**

**19**If they tell you to consult mediums and wizards that chirp and mutter, shouldn’t they consult their God instead? Should they consult the dead on behalf

of the living? <sup>20</sup>Instead, go to God's teaching, go to his testimony! If what they say doesn't agree with that, it's because they're not going to see a new dawn. <sup>21</sup>They'll pass through the land, distressed and hungry. They'll get mad and curse their king and their God. They'll look up to the sky <sup>22</sup>and down at the earth at distress and darkness, at the despair that comes from anguish. Then they'll be thrust into deep darkness.

**Is 8:19-22**

### A Messiah Has Been Born to Us

**9:1**But there won't be any more darkness for those who have been in distress. In earlier times, God didn't give much prominence to the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, but at a future time he'll make it glorious along the road from the Jordan along the Sea of Galilee, Galilee of the Gentiles.

**2**Those who walk in deep darkness  
will see a bright light;  
it will shine on people  
that live in a dark land.

**3**You'll enlarge the nation  
and increase their happiness;  
they'll be happy in your presence  
like people at harvest time  
or when they divide up spoil.

**4**You'll take off their yoke of slavery,  
remove the burden from their shoulders,  
and break the oppressor's rod  
like when you destroyed Midian in battle.

**Is 9:1-4**

**5**Infantry boots from the chaos of battle  
and uniforms soaked in blood will be burned.

**6**A child has been born to us, a son has been given;  
the government will rest on him.

He'll be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**7**His peaceful rule will never end  
on David's throne and over his kingdom.  
He'll make it secure and maintain it with justice  
and goodness permanently.

The zeal of Yahveh of Hosts will make it happen. **Is 9:5-7**

### God's Anger at Israel

**8**Yahveh is issuing a message against Jacob,

*a message of condemnation that falls on Israel.*

<sup>9</sup>Everyone in Ephraim will find out,

those who live in Samaria

who say with such arrogance,

<sup>10</sup>“*The fallen bricks in our ruins*

*we'll replace with dressed stones;*

*sycamores that have been cut down*

*we'll replant with cedars.”*

<sup>11</sup>But Yahveh will bring adversaries from Rezin

and spur them on.

<sup>12</sup>Syrians from the east plus Philistines from the west

will devour Israel with wide-open jaws.

**Even then, his anger won't be spent;**

**his fist will still be raised.**

**Is 9:8-12**

<sup>13</sup>Yet the people still won't come back

to the One that disciplined them

or look to Yahveh of Hosts.

<sup>14</sup>So he'll cut off head and tail from Israel,

palm branch and reed the same day.

<sup>15</sup>The head is the elders and honored men;

the tail is the false prophets.

<sup>16</sup>The people's guides are misguiding them;

they're guiding them toward destruction.

<sup>17</sup>That's why Yahveh doesn't delight in their young men

or feel compassion for their orphans and widows:

every one of them is godless;

they all speak foolishness.

**Even then, his anger won't be spent;**

**his fist will still be raised.**

**Is 9:13-17**

<sup>18</sup>Sin burns here like a brush fire,

consuming briars and thorns,

setting ablaze the undergrowth in the woods,

and sending up clouds of smoke *from igniting trees*

<sup>19</sup>The fury of Yahveh of Hosts will burn through the land;

its people will be the fuel for the fire;

nobody will spare his own brother.

<sup>20</sup>They'll grab what's on the right hand,

but still be hungry;  
 they eat what's on the left,  
 but not be satisfied;  
 they'll eat the flesh off their own arm!

<sup>21</sup>Ephraim and Manasseh will devour each other  
 and together feed on Judah.

**Even then, his anger won't be spent;**  
**his fist will still be raised.**

**Is 9:18-21**

**10:1** Misfortune awaits judges that enact unfair laws

and render illegal verdicts,

<sup>2</sup>who deprive the needy of justice  
 and rob the poor of their rights  
 so they can make widows their spoil  
 and orphans their plunder.

<sup>3</sup>What are you going to do when punishment arrives,  
 when devastation comes from far off?

Who will you run to for help?

Where will you hide your wealth?

<sup>4</sup>There'll be nothing left for you  
 but to crouch among the captives  
 or fall among the slain.

**Even then, his anger won't be spent;**  
**his fist will still be raised.**

**Is 10:1-4**

### Judgment Against Assyria

<sup>5</sup>"Misfortune awaits Assyria,  
*the club my anger is using,*  
*the staff I've loaded with my indignation.*

<sup>6</sup>I'm sending Assyria against my godless nation,  
 a people I'm angry with,  
 to capture spoil and seize plunder,  
 to tramp on like a dirt road.

<sup>7</sup>But that's not Assyria's intention.  
*It simply intends to destroy*  
*one nation after another.*

<sup>8</sup>It will say, 'My princes will all be kings?

<sup>9</sup>Calno will fall like Carchemish,  
 Hamath like Arpad,

*Samaria like Damascus.*

**10** *As I've done to other kingdoms with idols,  
whose carved images were greater than Jerusalem's and Samaria's,  
11 so I'll do to Jerusalem and its images  
what I've done to Samaria and its idols. ”*      **Is 10:5-11**

**12** So when the Lord finishes *using Assyria* to complete his work on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, *he'll say, “I'll punish the arrogant king of Assyria and his pompous pride.”* **13** *That's because* he brags,

*“I did this by my own power and wisdom,  
because I'm intelligent;  
I have broken through nations' boundaries  
and carried off their treasures,  
knocked down their kings like a bull  
14 and robbed their wealth like a nest;  
I gathered the whole world  
like someone gathers abandoned eggs;  
not a one flapped its wings  
or opened its beak or clucked.”*      **Is 10:12-14**

**15** *But* should an axe brag  
about being mightier than the *woodsman* that chops with it?  
Should a saw elevate itself  
above the carpenter that saws with it?  
*That would be like a staff wielding a shepherd*  
or a cane standing up the one that leans on it.

**16** So the Lord Yahveh of Hosts will send  
a plague among *Assyria's* strong soldiers;  
he'll ignite their glory with a burning flame.

**17** Israel's light will be that fire,  
its Holy One that flame;  
it will eat up *Assyria's* “thorns and briars” in one day.

**18** He'll destroy *Assyria's* glory like a forest  
and his fruitful “garden” body and soul;  
it'll waste away like sick people in a plague.

**19** So few trees will be left in his “woods”  
a kid could count them.      **Is 10:15-19**

<sup>20</sup>At that time, the remnant in Israel and the survivors in Judah that escaped will have the sense to never again rely on allies that want to destroy them. They'll rely on Yahveh, the Holy One of Israel, <sup>21-22</sup>the Mighty God. <sup>22</sup>Then, even though Israel was as numerous as sand by the sea, only a remnant will return. <sup>23</sup>The Lord Yahveh will carry out the total destruction he's decreed.

<sup>24</sup>So this is what he says,

*"My people in Zion, don't be afraid of Assyria that wants to strike you with a rod and threaten you with its staff like Egypt did. <sup>25</sup>In a little while, my anger at you will be spent, and I'll redirect it at Assyria. <sup>26</sup>I'll scourge it like I massacred Midian at the Rock of Oreb. I'll hold my staff out over the sea and lift it up like I did in Egypt. <sup>27</sup>Then I'll lift the Assyrian burden off your shoulders and break its yoke from off your neck."*

**Is 10:20-27**

<sup>28</sup>The Assyrians have passed through Migron,

attacked Aiath,

and set up base camp at Michmash.

<sup>29</sup>They've gone over the pass

and are camping at Geba;

Ramah has panicked,

and Gibeah of Saul has fled.

<sup>30</sup>Cry out in terror, people in Gallim!

Warn Laishah and poor Anathoth!

<sup>31</sup>Madmenah has fled;

the residents of Gebim are searching for refuge.

<sup>32</sup>The enemy will halt his advance at Nob for the day

and shake his fist at Mount Zion,

the hill of Jerusalem.

**Is 10:28-32**

<sup>33</sup>The Lord Yahveh of Hosts will lop off limbs with a terrible crash  
and cut down Lebanon's tall, lofty trees.

<sup>34</sup>With an iron axe he'll chop down the undergrowth in its forest,

and Lebanon will fall to the Mighty One.

**Is 10:33-34**

## A Branch from Jesse

**11:1** A sapling will grow out of Jesse's stump;  
a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>Yahveh's spirit will rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and insight,  
counsel and strength,

knowledge and respect for Yahveh.

<sup>3</sup>He'll delight in respecting Yahveh;  
he won't judge by appearances  
or render verdicts based on hearsay.

<sup>4</sup>He'll judge the poor justly  
and decide for the meek fairly.

He'll shake the ground with the force of his words  
and blow the sinful away with his breath.

<sup>5</sup>Faithfulness will be his cloak;  
goodness will be his belt.

**Is 11:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>Wolves will live with lambs;  
leopards will lie down beside baby goats;  
calves, lion cubs, and grain-fed animals will herd together;  
and a little child will herd them.

<sup>7</sup>Cows will graze beside bears;  
their young will bed down together;  
lions will eat straw like oxen.

<sup>8</sup>A nursing baby will play by a cobra pit;  
a weaned child will put his hand in a viper's hole.

<sup>9</sup>Nothing will do harm anywhere on my holy mountain,  
because the land will be full of knowledge of Yahveh  
like the ocean is full of water.

**Is 11:6-9**

<sup>10</sup>At that time, Jesse's heir will serve as a banner for the Gentiles. They'll rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. <sup>11</sup>For a second time he'll recover the remnant of his people that are left in Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Nubia, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and islands in the sea.

<sup>12</sup>He'll hoist a flag for the nations and repatriate the exiles of Israel and Judah from every direction. <sup>13</sup>Ephraim and Judah won't resent each other or harass one another. <sup>14</sup>They'll swoop down on the Philistines in the west and together plunder the nations to the east. They'll control Edom and Moab, and subjugate the Ammonites. <sup>15</sup>Yahveh will dry up the *Red Sea* by Egypt and blow his scorching wind on the Euphrates *River*. He'll separate it into seven channels so people can wade across in sandals. <sup>16</sup>There'll be a highway from Assyria for the remnant to return on, like there was for Israel when he brought them out of Egypt.

**Is 11:10-16**

## A Song of Praise for Salvation

**12:1** At that time, you'll say,

*"Thank you, Yahveh;  
though you were angry with me,  
you turned your anger away  
and reassured me.*

**2** You're my salvation;

*I'll trust you and not be afraid,  
because you're my strength and song."*

**3** So I'll draw water with joy  
from the wells of salvation

**4** and say,

*"Thank Yahveh, call on him;  
tell everyone what he's done;  
tell them his name is Honored.*

**5** Sing praises to him

*because he's done excellent things;  
tell it all over the world.*

**6** Sing and shout for joy, you that live in Zion,

*because the Holy One that lives with you is great."      Is 12:1-6*

**13:1** Oracle About Babylon That Isaiah Ben-Amoz Saw

**2** "Hoist a signal flag on a bare hilltop; call out an army  
and signal them to attack the mansions of the nobles.

**3** I've commanded my consecrated ones  
and strong men to carry out my anger."      Is 13:1-3

**4** There's noise in the mountains like a large army,  
the uproar of gathered kingdoms!

Yahveh of Hosts is mustering an army for war.

**5** He and his instruments of indignation

are coming from distant countries, from far-off horizons,  
to destroy the whole region.

<sup>6</sup>Cry out, because the day of Yahveh has come,  
destruction from the Almighty.

<sup>7</sup>Everybody's hands will fall limp;  
everyone's heart will melt.

<sup>8</sup>They'll panic;  
pain and anguish will seize them;  
they'll writhe like a woman in labor  
and look aghast at one another;  
their faces will be hot.

**Is 13:4-8**

<sup>9</sup>The day of Yahveh is coming—  
cruel, with fury and burning anger—  
to desolate the land  
and destroy its sinners.

<sup>10</sup>The stars and constellations won't glimmer;  
the sun will be dark at dawn,  
and the moon won't shine.

<sup>11</sup>*"That's how I'll punish the world for its sin,  
put an end to its arrogance,  
and humble the pride of ruthless people.*

<sup>12</sup>*I'll make people rarer than gold,  
rarer than gold from Ophir.*

<sup>13</sup>*I'll make the sky shake and the earth quake  
at my fury when my burning anger comes."*

**Is 13:9-13**

<sup>14</sup>Like hunted gazelles or sheep with no shepherd,  
everyone in Babylon will try to get back to their own people,  
to escape to their own country.

<sup>15</sup>Anybody that's found will be thrust through;  
anybody that's captured will fall by the sword.

<sup>16</sup>Their little ones will be dashed to pieces while they watch;  
their houses will be plundered and their wives raped.

<sup>17</sup>*"I'm going to stir up the Medes against them,  
who don't care about silver or delight in gold.*

<sup>18</sup>*Their bows will slaughter the young men;  
they won't show mercy to babies  
or pity children."*

**Is 13:14-18**

<sup>19</sup>Babylon—the glory of the kingdoms, the Babylonians' pride—  
     will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.  
<sup>20</sup>Nobody will ever live there;  
     no nomad will pitch his tent inside it;  
     no shepherd will bed down his flock in it.  
<sup>21</sup>Desert animals will rest there;  
     howling creatures will shelter in its *abandoned* houses;  
     owls will nest in it;  
     shaggy goats will frolic there.  
<sup>22</sup>Hyenas will howl in its fortified towers,  
     and jackals in its luxurious palaces;  
     its fate is soon to come.

Is 13:19-22

### A Taunt for the King of Babylon

<sup>14:1</sup>When Yahveh will have mercy on Jacob, choose Israel again, and settle them in their own land, foreigners will join Jacob's house. <sup>2</sup>The nations will help bring them home. Israel will possess them as an inheritance in Yahveh's land, as male and female servants. They'll capture their captors and rule their rulers. <sup>3</sup>When Yahveh gives them relief from their pain, turmoil, and harsh slavery, <sup>4</sup>they'll taunt the king of Babylon:

*"How the big bully has ceased bullying  
     and stopped his insolence!"*

<sup>5</sup>*Yahveh has broken the staff of the corrupt,*

*the scepter of rulers*

<sup>6</sup>*that struck people in fury with endless blows,  
     that ruled nations with unrestrained tyranny.*

<sup>7</sup>*The whole region is resting and quiet now;*

*the people are breaking out into shouts of joy.*

<sup>8</sup>*The cypress trees are celebrating over you;*

*the cedars of Lebanon say,*

*'Since you were laid low,  
     no lumberjacks have come to cut us down.'*

Is 14:1-8

<sup>9</sup>*Sheol below you is excited to welcome you;*

*the spirits of dead leaders rouse to see you;  
     the nations' kings rise from their thrones.*

<sup>10</sup>*They welcome you and say,*

*'You've become as weak as we are;  
     you're like us now.'*

**11** *Your pomp and the music of your lyres  
have come down to Sheol;  
maggots are your bed;  
worms are your covers.*

**Is 14:9-11**

**12** *How you've fallen from the sky,  
Morning Star, son of the dawn!  
You that overthrew nations  
have been thrown to the ground!*

**13** *You told yourself  
you'd ascend to the sky  
and raise your throne above God's stars  
and preside over the mount of assembly  
in the distant north;*

**14** *you'd rise above the clouds  
and be like the Most High.*

**15** *But, you'll be thrust down to Sheol,  
to the depths of the Pit.*

**Is 14:12-15**

**16** *Those who see you will gape and wonder,  
Is this the king that made the ground shake  
and kingdoms tremble,*

**17** *that turned the world into a wasteland,  
overthrew cities,  
and didn't let his prisoners go home?*

**Is 14:16-17**

**18** *The kings of earth lie in honor  
in their magnificent tombs;*

**19** *but you'll be thrown out of your sepulcher  
like a gross miscarriage,  
dumped with the slain in a mass grave,  
with those pierced by the sword,  
who go down into a cistern  
like trampled corpses.*

**20** *No one will give you a proper burial  
because you've ruined your own country  
and slain your own people.*

**21** *Slaughter his descendants for their father's guilt  
so they won't grow up and conquer the world  
like he did."*

**Is 14:18-21**

**22** *Yahveh of hosts says,*

*"I'll attack Babylon and destroy its reputation, children, and posterity.  
 23 I'll make a marsh out of it, a haunt for hedgehogs, and sweep it with a broom of destruction."*

*24 Yahveh of Hosts has sworn,  
 "It will happen the way I planned;  
 it'll stand like I intended.  
 25 I'll break Assyria when it comes into my land  
 and trample it underfoot on my mountains.  
 I'll remove its yoke from my people  
 and its burden from their backs.  
 26 That's what I've planned for the whole region,  
 a judgment that reaches out across the nations."  
 27 Yahveh of Hosts has a plan; who's going to stop it?  
 Who can shove aside his raised fist?*

Is 14:22-27

### Oracle Against Philistia

*28 The year King Ahaz died, this oracle came:*

*29 "You that live in Philistia, don't celebrate  
 because the rod that struck you is broken;  
 from that serpent's stock  
 a more poisonous snake will come.*

*30 I'll pasture the firstborn of my poor,  
 and their needy will lie down safely;  
 but I'll starve your root to death  
 and kill off any survivors.*

Is 14:28-30

*31 Wail, gates; cry, city;  
 melt away, Philistia;  
 because an army is drifting in like smoke from the north,  
 and every soldier in it rushes to the fight."*

*32 What should we tell any messengers the Philistines send?  
 "Yahveh founded Zion;  
 the stricken among his people  
 will find refuge there."*

Is 14:31-32

### 15:1 Oracle About Moab

Moab will be ruined  
 because Ar and Kir will be wiped out overnight.

<sup>2</sup>The people of Dibon will go up to their temple  
and high places to weep.  
Moab will mourn over Nebo and Medeba;  
everyone's head will be bald, and their beard shaved off.  
<sup>3</sup>They'll put on burlap  
in the streets and squares and on the housetops.  
Everyone will be wailing, melting in tears.  
<sup>4</sup>The outcries of Heshbon and Elealeh  
will echo all the way to Jahaz;  
the armed men of Moab will cry out in panic;  
their souls will tremble inside them.

Is 15:1-4

<sup>5</sup>My heart weeps for Moab;  
its refugees are fleeing as far as Zoar and Eglath-shelishiyah;  
they're going up to Luhith sobbing.  
All along the road to Horonaim,  
they're crying out in distress over their ruin.  
<sup>6</sup>The water at Nimrim has dried up;  
the tender grass has withered;  
there's nothing green anywhere.  
<sup>7</sup>The abundance they stored up  
is being carried away across Wadi Arabim.  
<sup>8</sup>Their distress cry has gone all over Moab;  
their wail as far as Eglaim and Beer-elim.  
<sup>9</sup>The stream near Dibon is running red with blood;  
I'll bring yet more anguish on Dibon:  
a lion on the refugees from Moab  
and the remnant *that's still* in the land.

Is 15:5-9

**16:**  
<sup>1</sup>Send tribute lambs to the ruler of the land,  
from Sela through the desert to Mount Zion.  
<sup>2</sup>At the Arnon fords the women of Moab will be  
left fluttering like birds or homeless nestlings.

Is 16:1-2

<sup>3</sup>"*Give us advice, grant us justice;*  
*cast your shadow on us like night at noon*  
*to hide us outcasts; don't betray us fugitives.*

<sup>4</sup>*Let our refugees from Moab stay among you;*  
*hide us from the destroyer."*

When oppression and destruction end  
 and raiders have left the land,  
 God will establish one of David's descendants as king;  
<sup>5</sup>he will set up a throne in enduring love,  
 and a faithful judge will sit on it in David's tent.  
 He'll rule with mercy and truth,  
 strive for justice,  
 and measure out goodness in timely fashion.

Is 16:3-5

- <sup>6</sup>We've heard about Moab's excessive pride,  
 its arrogance and fury;  
 its idle boasts have proved to be false.
- <sup>7</sup>So everyone in Moab will moan  
 for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth  
 like people completely stricken.
- <sup>8</sup>The fields of Heshbon will wither;  
 the vineyards of Sibmah too.  
 The lords of the nations will tramp on its choice clusters  
 whose tendrils reach out as far as Jazer  
 and spread to the eastern desert,  
 whose shoots have grown *westward* even across the Dead Sea.

Is 16:6-8

<sup>9</sup>So I'll weep bitterly for Jazer and the wine of Sibmah;  
 I'll drench you with my tears, Heshbon and Elealeh,  
 because the happy shouts over your summer fruits  
 and harvest have died out.

<sup>10</sup>Happiness will be gone from the productive fields;  
 there'll be no joyful shouting in the vineyards.  
 Nobody will be treading out wine in the wine presses;  
 I'll make the shouting stop.

<sup>11</sup>So my heart moans for Moab like a dirge on a harp;  
 my heart aches for Kir-hareseth.

<sup>12</sup>When the people of Moab  
 wear themselves out in worship at their shrines  
 and come to their sanctuary to pray,  
 it won't do them any good.

Is 16:9-12

<sup>13</sup>Yahveh spoke that message earlier about Moab. <sup>14</sup>Now he says, "*In three years, like a hired hand under contract would count them, I'll humble Moab's pride and decimate its sizeable population. Its survivors will be few and feeble.*"

Is 16:13-14

## 17:1 Oracle About Damascus

*“Damascus will stop being a city,  
and become a pile of ruins.  
2The villages around Aroer will be deserted;  
flocks will bed down in them,  
with no one to chase them away.*

*3Fortified towns will disappear from Ephraim,  
sovereignty from Damascus  
and the remnant from Syria;  
they’ll be like Israel’s departed glory,”*

Yahveh of hosts says. **Is 17:1-3**

*4“At that time, Jacob’s glory will fade;  
his robust body will grow frail.*

*5It will look like a grainfield after harvest,  
like someone gleaning grain heads one at a time  
in the Valley of Rephaim.*

*6Yet some gleanings will be left—  
like shaking an olive tree,  
two or three olives on the highest branch,  
four or five on a fruitful limb,”*

Yahveh God of Israel says. **Is 17:4-6**

*7At that time, people will finally care about their Maker and look to the Holy One of Israel. 8They won’t care about the altars, the work of their hands, or rely on what their fingers have made, the Asherah poles, and incense stands. 9Their largest towns will be like places the Hivites and Amorites deserted when the Israelites came. Desolation will prevail.* **Is 17:7-9**

*10You’ve forgotten the God who can save you,  
the Rock where you could hide.*

*So, though you plant nice plants  
and set them as seedlings from a foreign god,*

*11though you make them sprout the day you plant them,  
put a hedge around them  
and get them to blossom the same morning —  
you won’t pick any grapes from them;  
*harvest time will be a time of grief and unrelieved pain.**

**Is 17:10-11**

<sup>12</sup>Ah, the uproar of many nations  
    like the roar of the ocean,  
    like the rumbling of a flash flood!

<sup>13</sup>The nations rumble on like flooding water,  
    but he'll rebuke them,  
    and they'll flee like chaff in the mountain wind,  
        like whirling dust ahead of a storm.

<sup>14</sup>In the evening *Israel will wait in terror,*  
but by morning its enemies will be dead!  
That's what will happen to the ones that plunder us,  
a proper end for those who pillage us. Is 17:12-14

## An Oracle About Nubia

**18:1** Ah, land of fluttering wings,  
land beyond the headwaters of the Nile in Nubia,  
**2** that sends envoys by sea in papyrus boats—  
go swiftly, ambassadors, to a nation tall and smooth,  
**a people feared far and wide,**  
**a powerful, oppressive nation**  
**crisscrossed by rivers.**

<sup>3</sup>All of you that live in the world,  
look when I raise the signal on the mountains,  
listen when I blow the ram's horn,  
<sup>4</sup>because Yahveh has told me:

*“I’ll watch quietly from my Temple,  
as quietly as a cloud forming in the summer sunshine,  
like dew condensing at harvest time.”*

<sup>5</sup>Before harvest, as soon as the bud blossoms  
and the flowers start turning into grapes,  
he'll snip off the new shoots with pruning shears  
and lop off the spreading branches.

<sup>6</sup>Your huge army will be left dead for the mountain buzzards  
and wild animals on the ground.  
The buzzards will spend the summer picking at the corpses;  
the wild animals will spend the winter gnawing on them till harvest time.

**7**At that time, a nation tall and smooth  
will pay homage to Yahveh of Hosts—

**a people feared far and wide,  
a powerful, oppressive nation  
crisscrossed by rivers.**

*They'll bring their gifts to Mount Zion,  
the place that wears the name Yahveh of Hosts.*      **Is 18:5-7**

### **19:1 Oracle About Egypt**

Yahveh is riding a swift cloud to Egypt;  
Egypt's idols tremble in his presence;  
the Egyptians' hearts melt.

<sup>2</sup>“*I'll pit the Egyptians against one another,  
brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor;  
city against city, district against district.*

<sup>3</sup>*They'll be demoralized;  
I'll confuse their strategy  
so they'll resort to their idols and spirits of the dead,  
to mediums and spiritists.*

<sup>4</sup>*I'll deliver them to a cruel master;  
a powerful king will rule them,”*  
the Lord Yahveh of Hosts says. **Is 19:1-4**

<sup>5</sup>The Nile will dry up;  
its riverbed will be parched and dry.

<sup>6</sup>The canals *from the Nile* will get foul;  
the braiding streams in the delta will trickle and dry up;  
reeds and rushes will rot.

<sup>7</sup>Bulrushes by the Nile and the sown fields beside it  
will dry up and disappear.

<sup>8</sup>Fishermen will chant a dirge;  
the ones that cast lines in the Nile will mourn;  
those who spread nets on the water will lose heart.

<sup>9</sup>The ones that manufacture linen from combed flax  
or weave white cloth will despair.

<sup>10</sup>Business owners will go bankrupt;  
their hired laborers will grieve.      **Is 19:5-10**

<sup>11</sup>The officials in Zoan are simply fools;  
Pharaoh's best advisors give stupid advice.

How can you brag to Pharaoh  
 that you're wise, descendants of ancient kings?  
**12**Where are your wise men, *Pharaoh*?  
 Let them understand, have them tell you  
 what Yahveh of Hosts has planned for Egypt.  
**13**The officials in Zoan are simply fools;  
 the nobles in Memphis are deluded;  
 the cornerstones of its tribes have misled the country.  
**14**Yahveh has stirred up confusion in them,  
 they've led Egypt astray in everything it's doing,  
 like a drunk staggering in his vomit.  
**15**There's nothing helpless Egypt can do  
 with its head or tail, palm branch or reed.

Is 19:11-15

**16**The Egyptians will be like women then, cringing with fear as the fist of Yahveh of Hosts shakes over them. **17**Judah will terrorize Egypt. They'll dread hearing Judah mentioned because Yahveh has laid out his purpose against them.

**18**At that time, five cities in Egypt will start speaking Hebrew and swear allegiance to Yahveh of Hosts—Heliopolis for one. **19**There'll be an altar to him in Egypt and a monument to him at its border, **20**a sign and witness. When they call out to him against oppressors, he'll send them a champion to rescue them. **21**That's how he'll make himself known to them. They'll even worship with sacrifice and offering, take vows to him and keep them. **22**He'll strike Egypt, striking then healing them, so they'll come back to him. **23-24**A highway then will run from Egypt to Assyria, and people will travel to each other and worship together. Israel will be the third member in an alliance with Egypt and Assyria, with Yahveh's blessing *located between the two*. **25**"*Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, Israel my permanent possession.*"

Is 19:16-25

### A Sign Against Egypt and Nubia

**20:1**Sargon, king of Assyria, sent his general to attack Ashdod. **2**That year Yahveh spoke through Isaiah Ben-Amoz, "*Take the burlap off your waist and remove your sandals.*" So he went around naked and barefoot. **3**Yahveh said,

*"My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot for three years as an omen to Egypt and Nubia. **4**The king of Assyria will lead captives away from there, young and old, naked and barefoot with their butts showing, to Egypt's humiliation. **5**People will be disgraced and disappointed by Nubia their hope and Egypt their pride. **6**The people along the coast will say, 'Look at what's happened to them! How can we escape who fled there for protection from the king of Assyria?!"'*

Is 20:1-6

**21:1**Oracle About the Sandy Wastes Beside the Sea

Like a haboob sweeping in from the Negev,  
 catastrophe will sweep in through the desert from a terrible land.

**2**I see a harsh vision:  
 plunderers plundering; destroyers destroying.  
 Go on, Elam; lay siege, Media.  
 I'm going to put an end to the groaning Babylon's caused.

**3**My body's in agony;  
 pangs have seized me like a woman in labor.  
 I'm so faint I can't hear,  
 so scared I can't see.

**4**My mind is reeling, the horror is overwhelming;  
 I longed for the twilight;  
 now I'm afraid of the dark.

**5**The people are setting tables and spreading rugs *to sit on*;  
 they're eating and drinking. But—  
*"Get up, captains; oil the shields for battle!"*                   **Is 21:1-5**

**6**Then Yahveh said to me,  
*"Station a sentry to report what he sees.*

**7***When he sees riders, horsemen in pairs,*  
*a donkey train, a camel caravan,*  
*he needs to stay alert."*

**8**Then the sentry shouted like a lion,  
*"Yahveh, every day I've manned my station on the tower;*  
*every night I've stood at my post.*

**9**Now at last, *here come riders, horsemen in pairs.*  
*They're reporting, 'Fallen! Babylon's fallen!*  
*its images shattered on the ground.'"*

**10**My threshed people, winnowed on the threshing floor!  
 I'm reporting what I've heard  
 from Yahveh of Hosts, the God of Israel.                   **Is 21:6-10**

**11**Oracle About Edom

Someone keeps calling to me from Seir,  
 “*Watchman, what time is it?*  
*How long till morning?*”

<sup>12</sup>The watchman answers,  
 “*Morning is coming, but night will soon return;*  
*if you want updates, come back later*  
*and ask again.*”

**Is 21:11-12**

### **13 Oracle About Arabia**

Caravans of Dedanites, you have to spend the night  
 hiding in the deserts of Arabia.

<sup>14</sup>People in Tema, bring water for these thirsty refugees;  
 meet them with food,  
<sup>15</sup>because they’re running from the drawn sword,  
 the bent bow, the press of battle.

<sup>16</sup>This is what Yahveh told me,

“*A year from now, as a hired hand’s contract would read, Kedar’s splendor will end.* <sup>17</sup>*Its surviving archers and strong men will be few;*  
*I, Yahveh God of Israel, have spoken.* **Is 21:13-17**

### **22:1 Oracle About the Valley of Vision**

What’s the matter with you?  
 Why are you all running up to the housetops?

<sup>2</sup>You noisy, exuberant city in an uproar,  
 your dead weren’t slain in battle,  
 but by famine and disease.

<sup>3</sup>Your rulers all fled together  
 and were captured without resistance;  
 your people were discovered and taken captive too,  
 though they’d tried to escape.

**Is 22:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>So I said, “*Leave me alone to weep bitterly;*  
*don’t try to comfort me about the destruction of my people.*”

<sup>5</sup>The Lord Yahveh of Hosts has in mind  
 a day of panic, trampling, and confusion  
 in the Valley of Vision,  
 a day of battering down walls

and outcries echoing off the mountains.

- <sup>6</sup>Elam will take up the quiver  
     with chariots, infantry, and cavalry;  
     Kir will uncover the shield.  
<sup>7</sup>Chariots will fill your beautiful valleys;  
     cavalry will storm the gates.  
<sup>8</sup>God will take down Judah's defenses.

Is 22:4-8a

At that time, you depend on the weapons in the House of the Forest

- <sup>9</sup>when you see how many breaches were in the wall of David's city;  
     you store up water from the lower pool;  
<sup>10</sup>you tear down some of the houses to get materials to fortify the wall;  
<sup>11</sup>you create a reservoir between the walls to hold water from the old pool;  
     but you don't ask for help from the One that made all this  
     or consider the One that planned it long ago.

<sup>12</sup>The Lord Yahveh of Hosts had called for you to weep, wail, shave *your* head, and put on burlap. <sup>13</sup>Instead, you've celebrated with revelry, butchering cattle and sheep, eating meat and drinking wine: "*Let's eat and drink; tomorrow we die.*" <sup>14</sup>Yahveh of Hosts revealed this to me, "*I won't forgive that sin as long as you live.*"

Is 22:8b-14

### An Oracle for Shebna

<sup>15</sup>The Lord Yahveh of Hosts says,

*"Go ask Shebna, the palace administrator, <sup>16</sup>Who are you that you've hewn out a monumental tomb for yourself here high in the rock? <sup>17-19</sup>Arrogant man! I'm going to depose you from your office, wad you into a ball, and throw you away into a large country to die there with your splendid chariots, you disgrace to your master's house.*

*<sup>20-21</sup>I'll put your robe on my servant Eliakim Ben-Hilkiah and tie your sash around him. I'll entrust him with your authority, and he'll become a father to the people in Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>I'll hang on his shoulder the key to David's house. When he opens, no one will shut; when he shuts, nobody will open. <sup>23</sup>I'll drive him like a stake in solid ground. He'll become famous, <sup>24</sup>and they'll place on him the prestige of his family, from offspring and issue to the least items of bowls and jars. <sup>25</sup>But then the peg driven in solid ground will break off, and the load hanging on it will fall to the ground. I, Yahveh, have said so. '"*

Is 22:15-25

## 23:1 Oracle About Tyre

Wail, you merchant ships of Tarshish,  
 because Tyre's destroyed without home or harbor,  
 just like the rumor you heard all the way over at Cyprus.

<sup>2</sup>Be quiet, you people on the coast, merchants of Sidon;  
 your traders crossed the sea  
<sup>3</sup>and sailed on many bodies of water.  
 Grain from the Nile, harvest from the Shihor was your revenue;  
 you were the international marketplace.

<sup>4</sup>But now be disgraced, Sidon,  
 because the fortress by the sea says,  
*"I'm childless, without young men and virgins."*

<sup>5</sup>When the report reaches Egypt,  
 they'll agonize over Tyre.

<sup>6</sup>Pass the news on to Tarshish;  
 wail, people in distant places.

<sup>7</sup>Is this your joyous city  
 that originated in antiquity  
 and colonized distant lands?

**Is 23:1-7**

<sup>8</sup>Who planned this against Tyre, the granter of crowns,  
 whose merchants were princes,  
 whose traders the world honored?

<sup>9</sup>Yahveh of Hosts planned it to dampen the pride of all beauty,  
 to humble the honored in the world.

<sup>10</sup>Tyre's land has been flooded like the Nile, Tarshish;  
 its defenses are gone.

<sup>11</sup>Yahveh has stretched out his hand over the sea  
 and shaken the kingdoms;  
 he has commanded to demolish Phoenicia's fortresses.

<sup>12</sup>He said, "*You won't celebrate anymore,*  
*crushed virgin of Sidon;*  
*even if you escape to Cyprus,*  
*you won't find rest.*"

**Is 23:8-12**

<sup>13</sup>Look at the land of the Babylonians; it's gone. The Assyrians delivered it to the desert animals; they erected siege ramps, stripped its palaces, and reduced it to ruins.

<sup>14</sup>Wail, ships of Tarshish;

the harbor you sailed to has been destroyed.

**15**Tyre will pass from memory for 70 years, the lifetime of one king. Then it will come back to life like the woman in “The Song of the Prostitute”:

**16**“*Take your harp and walk the streets,  
forgotten prostitute;  
pluck the strings skillfully and sing your songs  
so they'll remember you again.*”

**17**After 70 years Yahveh will revisit Tyre. It'll go back to playing the prostitute with kingdoms everywhere. **18**In the end, her pay won't be saved up or hoarded; it will be set aside to feed and dress the Yahveh's priests.

**Is 23:13-18**

### Devastation of the Earth

**24:1**Yahveh is laying the earth waste, defacing its surface, scattering its residents. **2**People and priests, servants and masters, maids and mistresses, buyers and sellers, lenders and borrowers, creditors and debtors—everyone will be affected. **3**The earth will be completely despoiled because Yahveh said so. **4**The earth withers, and its people waste away, even its high-ranking ones, **5**because they've polluted it by sinning against God's laws, statutes, and everlasting covenant. **6**So a curse devastates the earth, and its people have to pay for their guilt. They're burned; there aren't many left.

**Is 24:1-6**

**7**There's no new wine to drink;  
the grapevines have dried up;  
the light-hearted sigh.

**8**Celebrating with tambourines has stopped;  
the noise from revelers has ceased;  
happiness with harps has disappeared.

**9**They don't drink wine and sing;  
alcohol tastes bitter.

**10**The city in chaos has broken-down walls;  
its houses are boarded up to keep intruders out. **Is 24:7-10**

**11**Stragglers in the streets holler for wine;  
joy has turned to gloom;  
happiness has vanished.

**12**The city's in ruins;  
its gates are battered down.

**13**That's the way it is in the rural areas too—  
as when they shake the olive tree  
or glean for grapes. **Is 24:11-13**

**14**But a few raise their voices and shout for joy;  
they shout from the west about the majesty of Yahveh.

**15**So honor him in the east,  
the God of Israel in lands beyond the sea.

**16**In the distance we hear singing,

*“Honor to the Righteous One.”*

**Is 24:14-16**

But I say, “*Misfortune awaits me! Misfortune awaits me!*  
*The devious deal deviously, so deviously!*”

**17**Terror, pit, and snare threaten you,  
people of the earth;

**18**the one that runs from terror  
falls into a pit;  
the one that climbs out of the pit  
gets caught in a snare.

**Is 24:17-18a**

The windows in the sky rain down destruction;  
the foundations of the earth quake.

**19**The earth breaks into pieces;  
earthquakes split it apart  
and shake it violently.

**20**It staggers like a drunk;  
it leans like a shack  
because its sins press heavily against it;  
it will fall over permanently.

**21**At that time, Yahveh will punish the gods in the sky above  
and the kings on the earth below.

**22**They’ll be rounded up together  
like prisoners in a dungeon  
and finally be punished,

**23**The moon will fade,  
and the sun will lose its brightness,  
compared to Yahveh of hosts,  
who will reign on Zion  
and display his glory to his people’s leaders.

**Is 24:18b-23**

### Praise for Judgment and Salvation

**25:1**Yahveh, you’re my God.  
I’ll honor and thank you

for doing the wonderful things you planned long ago.  
<sup>2</sup>You've reduced fortified towns to rubble;  
     the foreigners' palaces will never be rebuilt.  
<sup>3</sup>So strong people will honor you;  
     towns in ruthless nations will come to revere you,  
<sup>4</sup>because you've defended the helpless  
     and needy in their despair;  
     you're a shelter from the storm and a shade from heat,  
     because the breath of ruthless people  
         is like a storm beating on a wall  
<sup>5</sup>or stifling heat in drought.  
     You weaken the threats of foreigner powers  
         like a cloud's shadow lessens heat;  
     the raucous war songs of the ruthless fall silent.

Is 25:1-5

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain Yahveh of Hosts will hold a lavish banquet for everybody in the world, a banquet of aged wine and choice meat. <sup>7</sup>Here he'll remove the shadow that lies over every country, the veil that covers the nations. <sup>8</sup>He'll swallow up death for all time, wipe away everyone's tears, and remove the abuse of his people everywhere. Yahveh has said so.

<sup>9</sup>At that time, people will say, "*This is the God we've waited for to save us. He's Yahveh; let's celebrate and be glad he's done it.*" <sup>10</sup>His hand will rest on this mountain, and Moab will be trodden down like straw in the urine of a manure pit. <sup>11</sup>He'll subdue Moab like a swimmer pushes down water. He'll end its pride and slight-of-hand. <sup>12</sup>He'll bring down its impregnable fortifications and throw them on the ground.

Is 25:6-12

### A Song of Praise to the LORD

**26:**<sup>1</sup>At that time, they'll sing a song in Judah:

We have an impregnable city;  
     it's set up with secure walls and ramparts.  
<sup>2</sup>Open the gates so a good nation can enter,  
     one that stays faithful.  
<sup>3</sup>You keep steadfast minds in perfect peace  
     because they trust in you.  
<sup>4</sup>Trust in Yahveh forever  
     because in him we have an everlasting Rock.  
<sup>5</sup>He brings down low the ones that live up high  
     in their "safe city";

he throws it to the ground.

<sup>6</sup>The poor and helpless trample it.

**Is 26:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>The road for the righteous is not rough;

Righteous One, level out our path.

<sup>8</sup>We conform our way to your judgments, Yahveh;

with all our heart we want to honor you.

<sup>9</sup>At night I long for you;

my spirit looks for you earnestly;

when the earth experiences your judgments,

its people learn goodness.

<sup>10</sup>Even if sinners receive grace,

they don't learn goodness;

they keep dealing unjustly in an unjust land

and don't sense Yahveh's majesty.

**Is 26:7-10**

<sup>11</sup>Yahveh, you're holding up your fist, but they don't see it;

show them your zeal for your people;

humble your adversaries;

consume them with fire.

<sup>12</sup>You'll establish peace for us,

since you're the One that *actually* does for us

everything we *try to* do.

<sup>13</sup>Other lords have ruled us before,

but you're the only one we acknowledge.

<sup>14</sup>Those dead *rulers* won't live *again*;

their departed spirits won't rise.

You've punished them with destruction

and wiped out any memory of them.

<sup>15</sup>You've made this nation great

and extended its borders; we honor you.

**Is 26:11-15**

<sup>16</sup>We looked to you in distress,

able only to whisper a prayer,

because you were disciplining us.

<sup>17</sup>Like a pregnant woman at delivery time,

she writhes and cries out in labor pains;

that's how we were before you, Yahveh.

<sup>18</sup>We've been pregnant, writhing in labor,

but nothing came of it;  
we couldn't save the world  
or bring life into it.

<sup>19</sup>But even your dead will live again; their corpses will rise;  
those who lie in the dust will wake up and sing for joy.  
Your light will fall on them like dew,  
and the ground will give birth to their departed spirits.

Is 26:16-19

**Deliverance for Israel**

<sup>20</sup>Go home, my people,  
and lock the doors behind you;  
hide for a while  
till Yahveh's anger has run its course.

<sup>21</sup>Yahveh is coming from heaven  
to punish people for their sin;  
the ground will show those whose blood's been shed;  
it won't any longer be able to hide its slain.

Is 26:20-21

**27:1**At that time, Yahveh will punish Leviathan with his fierce, big strong sword, Leviathan the swift, slithering snake. He'll kill the dragon that's in the sea.

<sup>2</sup>Then,

"There'll be a delightful vineyard to sing about!  
<sup>3</sup>I, Yahveh, will be its keeper;  
I'll water it constantly  
and guard it day and night so no one harms it.

<sup>4</sup>I won't be angry anymore.  
If anybody gives me briars and thorns in battle,  
I'll trample and burn them completely  
<sup>5</sup>unless they rely on me for protection.  
Let them make peace with me;  
let them make peace with me."

Is 27:1-5

<sup>6</sup>In time to come, Jacob will take root;  
Israel will sprout and blossom,  
and fill the world with fruit.

<sup>7</sup>Has Yahveh struck Israel  
the way he struck Israel's strikers?

Has he slain Israel  
     the way he slew *Israel's* slayers?  
<sup>8</sup>No, he contended with *Israel* by banishing them,  
     expelling them with his fierce east wind.  
<sup>9</sup>So that's how he'll purge Jacob's iniquity;  
     that's what pardoning its sin will cost,  
         when *God* makes *pagan* altar stones like pulverized chalk,  
         when he leaves no Asherah pole or incense altar standing.  
<sup>10</sup>The fortified towns will be deserted,  
     their houses empty as in open country;  
     calves will graze there and bed down;  
     they'll chew on brush and branches there.  
<sup>11</sup>When those branches dry up, they'll break off  
     and women will gather them for kindling;  
     this nation doesn't use any sense;  
     so their Maker won't show them any mercy;  
     their Creator won't be gracious to them.

Is 27:6-11

<sup>12</sup>Yet in time, Israel, Yahveh will start gleaning from the Euphrates *River* to the River of Egypt and gather you up one by one. <sup>13</sup>A large trumpet will blow, and the exiles who were perishing in Assyria and Egypt will come to Jerusalem to worship Yahveh on his holy mountain.

Is 27:12-13

### An Oracle About Samaria

**28:**<sup>1</sup>Misfortune awaits the proud crown of Ephraim's drunks,  
     the fading flower of its glorious beauty,  
     *Samaria, that's at the head of the fertile valley*  
     of those drunk with wine.

<sup>2</sup>Yahveh has a strong and powerful *military agent*;  
     he'll throw *Samaria* down on the ground  
     like a hail storm, destructive gale, overwhelming flood.

<sup>3</sup>**The proud crown of Ephraim's drunks** will get tramped on;  
<sup>4</sup>**the fading flower of its glorious beauty**  
     *that's at the head of the fertile valley*,  
     will be like the first-ripe fig of summer:  
         as soon as it's seen, it's picked and eaten.

Is 28:1-4

<sup>5</sup>At a later time, Yahveh of Hosts will finally become Israel's crown *instead*,  
     a beautiful diadem for his remnant people.

<sup>6</sup>He'll give their judges a desire to render justice  
     and their soldiers the courage to repel onslaughts at the gates.

<sup>7</sup>But for now the priests and prophets  
reel with wine and stagger from alcohol,  
reeling while having visions,  
staggering while rendering verdicts.

<sup>8</sup>Their tables are covered with vomit;  
there's filth everywhere.

Is 28:5-8

<sup>9</sup>Yet they say, "Who's Yahveh think he's going to teach?  
Who's he going to explain the message to?  
Are we little kids just weaned from milk,  
just taken from the breast?"

<sup>10</sup>They say that because he tells them over and over,

**"Precept on precept,  
line on line;  
here a little, there a little."**

<sup>11</sup>So instead, he'll have to speak to his people  
in a foreigner's language.

<sup>12</sup>He told them, "Here's a place for the weary to rest,"  
but they ignored him.

<sup>13</sup>So Yahveh will keep on lining out his message to them,

**"Precept on precept,  
line on line;  
here a little, there a little";  
till they stumble and fall backward,  
broken, snared, and captured.**

Is 28:9-13

<sup>14</sup>So listen to Yahveh's message,  
you scoffing rulers in Jerusalem:

<sup>15</sup>"You try to tell yourselves,  
'We've made a deal with death,  
a treaty with Sheol;  
the overwhelming scourge won't trample us  
when it comes along;  
we can lie our way out of danger  
and hide behind deceit.'"

<sup>16</sup>But the Lord Yahveh says,

*"I'm laying a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone for a firm foundation;*

*nothing that's built on it will shift out of place.*

**17** *I'll make justice the measuring line  
and goodness the level;  
hail will sweep away your refuge in lies,  
and water will flood your hiding place.*

**18** *I'll undo your deal with death  
and annul your treaty with Sheol;  
when the overwhelming scourge comes along,  
it will trample you.* Is 28:14-18

**19** *It'll seize you again and again;  
morning after morning it will come through  
and at any time day or night.  
That will mean pure terror for you  
once you get what that means."*

**20** *The bed you've built is too short to stretch out on;  
your blanket's too narrow to cover up with.*

**21** *Yahveh will come like he did at Mount Perazim;  
he'll show his anger like he did in the Valley of Gibeon.  
He'll do his unexpected task  
and accomplish his extraordinary work.*

**22** *Don't carry on like scoffers;  
he'll tighten your bonds even more.  
I've heard from the Lord Yahveh of hosts  
about *his* decree to destroy the whole region.* Is 28:19-22

**23** *Listen to my question.*

**24** *When it's planting time,  
does a farmer keep on plowing,  
keep breaking up ground and harrowing it?*

**25** *Doesn't he smooth it out,  
sow dill and scatter cummin,  
plant wheat in rows,  
and broadcast barley and rye in their plots  
because his God has taught him how to do it?*

**27** *A farmer doesn't thresh dill with a sledge  
or drive a cart wheel over cummin;  
he beats out dill and cummin with a stick.*

<sup>28</sup>Does he crush grain for bread?  
*No, he doesn't keep threshing it over and over;  
 the cart wheel and horses' hooves would ruin it.*

<sup>29</sup>That goes for Yahveh of Hosts too,  
 who made his advice wonderful  
 and his wisdom great. Is 28:23-29

### An Oracle About Jerusalem

<sup>29:1</sup>"Misfortune awaits you, Ariel, city where David camped!  
*Year after year, you observe the festivals on schedule.*

<sup>2</sup>Yet I'll bring disaster on you, Ariel;  
*you'll lament and mourn;  
 you'll be to me what Ariel means [blood-covered altar].*

<sup>3</sup>I'll camp against you all the way around  
*and set up siege works and battle towers.*

<sup>4</sup>You'll be brought low;  
*you'll speak from the ground  
 where you lie prostrate;  
 you'll speak like a spirit conjured up from the dirt,  
 like a whisper from the grave.* Is 29:1-4

<sup>5</sup>"But suddenly your many enemies  
*will be like fine dust blown away,  
 ruthless attackers like chaff  
 gone with a gust of wind.*

<sup>6</sup>Yahveh of Hosts will visit you  
*with thunder, earthquake, and loud noise,  
 with whirlwind, storm, and consuming fire.*

<sup>7</sup>The nations that carry on war with you, Ariel,  
*that attack your fortresses,  
 will vanish like a dream at night.*

<sup>8</sup>They'll be like hungry people that dream they're eating,  
*but wake up still hungry;  
 or thirsty people that dream they're drinking,  
 but wake up fainting from thirst.*

*That's how it will be with the countries  
 that attack Mount Zion."* Is 29:5-8

<sup>9</sup>But you linger and wait and blind yourselves.

You're drunk, but not with wine;  
you're staggering, but not from alcohol;

<sup>10</sup>that's because Yahveh has poured a sleeping spirit over you;

he's shut your eyes, prophets,  
and covered your heads, seers.

<sup>11-12</sup>This whole vision won't mean much to you, either because it's a sealed scroll to you or because you can't read. Literate or not, you won't get it. Is 29:9-12

<sup>13</sup>So Yahveh says,

*"These people come near with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are somewhere else;  
their respect for me consists of  
memorizing human rules.*

<sup>14</sup>*So I'll surprise these hypocrites once again  
with something awesome and amazing;  
the wisdom of the wise will perish;  
the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear. Is 29:13-14*

<sup>15</sup>*"Misfortune awaits people that try to hide  
their intentions from me,  
who do things in the dark  
and think I can't see them.*

<sup>16</sup>*You've got things turned around!  
Is a potter treated like clay  
so that what's made says to its maker,  
'You didn't make me';  
or what's formed says to the one that formed it,  
"You don't know what you're doing"?" Is 29:15-16*

<sup>17</sup>Isn't it just a little while  
till Lebanon becomes a fertile field  
and the fertile field becomes a forest?

<sup>18</sup>At that time, the deaf will hear the message from the scroll;  
the blind will see through the gloom and darkness;  
<sup>19</sup>the humble will have fresh happiness in Yahveh;  
the needy will celebrate in the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>20</sup>Ruthless people will come to nothing;

scoffers won't scoff anymore;  
 those intent on creating disorder will be destroyed—  
**21**people that slander,  
 that try to entrap the judge in court,  
 that defraud the innocent with sophistry. **Is 29:17-21**

**22**So Yahveh that redeemed Abraham says of Jacob's house,  
*"They won't be ashamed anymore,  
 or turn pale with fear.*  
**23***When they see their descendants around them,  
 the work of my hands,  
 they'll treat me as holy  
 and stand in awe of me.*  
**24***The ignorant will know the truth;  
 the stubborn will accept instruction."*      **Is 29:22-24**

## No Help from Egypt

**30:1**Yahveh says, "*Misfortune awaits rebellious children  
 that carry out plans, but not mine,  
 that make alliances, but not by my Spirit,  
 and thereby pile sin on top of error;*  
**2***children that go down to Egypt to get help instead of consulting me,  
 to take refuge in Pharaoh's safety,  
 to look for shelter under Egypt's shadow.*  
**3***The safety that comes from Pharaoh will humiliate them;  
 the shelter under Egypt's shadow will disgrace them.*  
**4***Their princes may be at Zoan,  
 their ambassadors may arrive at Hanes,*  
**5***but they'll all be disgraced  
 by a people that can't help them,  
 but bring shame and dishonor."*      **Is 30:1-5**

## **6**Oracle About Animals in the Negev

Through a land of distress and anguish—  
 where lions and lionesses,  
 vipers and poisonous snakes live—  
 a caravan transports their wealth on the backs of donkeys,

their treasure on the humps of camels.  
*They're taking tribute to a nation that can't help them,*  
<sup>7</sup>*to Egypt, "Harmless Rahab [Dragon]," as I describe it.*

**Is 30:6-7**

### **Warning to Judah**

<sup>8</sup>*Go write this on a scroll,  
so it can serve as a lasting testimony.*  
<sup>9</sup>*This is a rebellious nation,  
unfaithful children that refuse to hear Yahveh's instruction;*  
<sup>10</sup>*that say to seers, "Don't see visions,"  
that tell prophets, "Don't prophesy what's true.  
Say pleasant things;  
prophesy illusions.*  
<sup>11</sup>*Get off the road, turn away from the beaten path;  
we don't want to hear any more  
about the Holy One of Israel."*

**Is 30:8-11**

<sup>12</sup>*This is what the Holy One of Israel says,  
"Since you've rejected that message  
and relied on oppression and perversion,  
your sin is like a bulge in a wall  
that's ready to collapse.  
<sup>14</sup>It will fall like a smashed clay pot  
so completely shattered that not a sherd of it  
can take coals from a hearth  
or dip water from a well."*

**Is 30:12-14**

### **Blessings for Yahveh's People**

<sup>15</sup>*This is what the Lord Yahveh, the Holy One of Israel, says,  
"Only in repenting and resting in me will you be saved;  
your strength lies in quietness and trust.  
But you didn't want to do that.  
<sup>16</sup>You said, 'No, we'll flee on horses brought from Egypt.'  
You'll flee all right!  
'We'll ride on fast horses.'  
Your pursuers will ride fast too!*

<sup>17</sup>*A thousand will flee at the threat of one;  
you'll all run at the threat of five,  
till you're abandoned like a flagpole on a mountaintop,*

*like a signal on a hill.”*

**Is 30:15-17**

**18**Yahveh wants to be gracious to you;  
he waits on high to show you mercy  
because he’s a just God.

How blessed they are who wait for him to help.      **Is 30:18**

**19**People in Zion, residents of Jerusalem, don’t cry; he’ll be gracious to you. When he hears you cry out to him *for help*, he’ll answer. **20**Although he’s given you adversity for food and suffering for water, your Teacher won’t hide any longer; you’ll see him. **21**When you swerve to left or right, you’ll hear a voice behind you, “*This is the way; walk here.*” **22**You’ll defile your carved images overlaid with silver, your molten images plated with gold. You’ll throw them out like filthy rags and say, “*Get them out of here!*”

**23**Then he’ll give you rain for the seed you sow and bread from the yield. It’ll be rich and abundant. Your livestock will have plenty of pasture. **24**Your oxen and donkeys that work the ground will eat salted fodder winnowed with fork and shovel. **25**After the great slaughter when the towers fall, on every tall mountain and tall hill, there’ll be streams of water running down. **26**Moonlight will be like sunlight, and sunlight will be seven times brighter—a week’s worth a day—when Yahveh sets his people’s fractures and heals the bruises he’s inflicted on them.

**Is 30:19-26**

**27**Yahveh will come from a remote place  
with burning anger and thick smoke.

His lips will be full of indignation,  
his tongue a consuming fire,

**28**his breath an overflowing torrent neck deep.

He’ll sift out the nations in *his* sieve  
and put a bridle in their mouths to ride them to ruin.

**29**But you’ll sing songs at night like you do at the holy festivals. You’ll celebrate like you do when you march to a flute as pilgrims and go up to the mountain of Yahveh, the Rock of Israel. **30**He<sup>Y</sup> will make his majestic voice heard and bring down his arm in lightning, cloudbursts, and downpours with hailstones. **31**The Assyrians will panic when they hear him strike with his rod. **32**Every punishing blow he lays on them will be to the accompaniment of tambourines and harps. He’ll fight them in battles and brandish *his* weapons. **33**Topheth has long been ready, prepared for *the Assyrian* king. *Yahveh* has made it deep and wide, a pyre with plenty of wood. His breath like a lava stream of sulfur will light it.

**Is 30:27-33**

### Warning to Those Who Rely on Egypt

**31:1** Misfortune lies ahead for those who go down to Egypt for help,  
 who rely on horses,  
 that trust in chariots because they are many

and in horsemen because they are strong,  
 instead of looking to the Holy One of Israel,  
 instead of consulting Yahveh!

**2** He's wise and brings disaster  
 and doesn't take back what he says;  
 he rises up at the sinful and their helpers.

**3** Egyptians are people, not God;  
 their horses are flesh, not spirit.

So Yahveh will hold out his fist,  
 and the one that helps them will stumble,  
 the one that's helped will fall.

They'll meet their end together.

**Is 31:1-3**

**4** Yahveh says to me,  
 "Like a young lion growls over its prey  
 and shepherds' shouts don't scare it away,  
 I'll<sup>Y</sup> come down  
 to wage war on Mount Zion.

**5** Like a hovering bird I'll guard Jerusalem,  
 protect and deliver it,  
 spare and rescue it."

**Is 31:4-5**

**6** Come back to the One you've rebelled against, Israel, **7** and throw away the silver and gold idols you've made.

**8** "The Assyrians will fall by a sword that's not human;  
 a sword that's not human will devour them.  
 They won't escape,  
 and their young soldiers will become slaves.

**9** Their 'rock' will pass away in panic;  
 their princes will desert the standard,"  
 Yahveh says, whose fire is in Zion,  
 whose furnace is Jerusalem.

**Is 31:6-9**

### Israel's Ultimate Deliverance

**32:1** A righteous king is coming;  
 his princes will rule honestly.

<sup>2</sup>Each will provide a refuge from the wind,  
     a shelter from the storm,  
     a stream of water in the desert,  
     the shade of a big tree in parched land.

<sup>3</sup>Then the seeing will perceive;  
     the hearing will listen.

<sup>4</sup>The rash will use good judgment;  
     stuttering tongues will speak fluently.

**Is 32:1-4**

<sup>5</sup>Fools won't be called noble anymore;  
     rogues won't be considered generous;  
<sup>6</sup>because fools speak nonsense;  
     they're inclined to practice ungodliness,  
         to lie about Yahveh,  
         to keep hungry people hungry,  
         and deprive the thirsty of a drink.

<sup>7</sup>Their methods are evil;  
     they design plots  
         to destroy the poor with slander  
         even when the plea of the needy is just.

<sup>8</sup>But the truly noble make noble plans  
     and stick with them.

**Is 32:5-8**

<sup>9</sup>Get up, **women of leisure;**  
     listen, **complacent daughters.**

<sup>10</sup>In a little over a year,  
     trouble will come, complacent daughters;  
     because the grapes will fail,  
         the fruit harvest won't happen.

<sup>11</sup>Tremble, **women of leisure;**  
     shudder, **complacent daughters.**

Strip down to the skin  
     and wrap burlap around your waist.

**Is 32:9-11**

<sup>12</sup>Beat your breasts for pleasant fields and fruitful vines,  
<sup>13</sup>for joyful houses and happy towns,  
     for my people's land, where thorns and thistles grow;  
<sup>14</sup>because the palace will be abandoned,  
     the populated towns will be empty,  
     hill and watchtower will become permanent dens,

- a delight for wild donkeys,  
a pasture for flocks;
- 15**till the Spirit is poured out on us from on high,  
    till the desert becomes a fertile field,  
        and the fertile field becomes a forest. **Is 32:12-15**
- 16**Then justice will thrive in the countryside;  
    goodness will grow in the fertile field.
- 17**Goodness will lead to peace  
    and bring extended calm and confidence.
- 18**Then my people will live undisturbed  
    in safe houses and peaceful retreats.
- 19**Though hail flattens the forest  
    and the city's leveled,
- 20**you'll still be blessed who sow near water,  
    who let livestock and donkeys range free. **Is 32:16-20**

### An Oracle About Assyria

- 33:1**Misfortune awaits you, destroyers  
 who haven't been destroyed yourselves;  
*misfortune awaits you*, treacherous people  
 that others haven't treated treacherously.  
 As soon as you're done destroying, you'll be destroyed;  
 as soon as you've finished your treachery,  
 others will deal treacherously with you.
- 2**Yahveh, be gracious to us; we've waited for you;  
 be our strength each morning,  
 our deliverer when trouble comes.
- 3**Let people run from the turmoil you bring;  
 let nations scatter when you threaten.
- 4**Gather spoil like caterpillars gather  
 and locusts strip the countryside.
- 5**Honor Yahveh because he lives on high;  
 he's filled Zion with justice and goodness.
- 6**Later he'll provide you stability,  
 a wealth of salvation, knowledge, and wisdom;  
 respect for him will be *your* treasure. **Is 33:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>*But for now, your brave men cry in public;  
your ambassadors for peace weep bitterly.*

<sup>8</sup>The roads are empty; travel is at a standstill  
because *the enemy* has broken the treaty,  
despised towns,  
and doesn't care about their inhabitants.

<sup>9</sup>The land mourns and pines away;  
Lebanon shrivels up with shame.  
Sharon has become a desert;  
Bashan and Carmel are losing their leaves.

<sup>10</sup>“*So now I'll stand up and be honored,*” Yahveh says,

<sup>11</sup>“*You've conceived chaff and given birth to stubble;*  
*my breath will consume you like a flame.*

<sup>12</sup>*I'll burn the nations to lime*  
*and destroy cut thorns with fire.*

**Is 33:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>*You that are far off, pay attention to what I've done;*  
*you that are near, acknowledge my power.”*

<sup>14</sup>Sinners in Zion have panicked; the godless tremble,  
“*Who among us can live in this consuming fire*  
*and continual burning?”*

<sup>15</sup>You that conduct yourselves justly and speak truthfully,  
who refuse to profit from fraud  
and pull your hand back from bribes,  
who stop your ears from listening to murderous plots  
and shut your eyes from watching evil—

<sup>16</sup>you'll live on high;  
your refuge will be an impregnable cliff;  
you'll have food enough to eat  
and water you can rely on.

**Is 33:13-16**

<sup>17</sup>You'll see the King in his splendor  
and look at a land that stretches far and wide.

<sup>18</sup>You'll remember your fears from before, *and ask,*  
“*Where are the Assyrians that counted our defenses,*  
*numbered our towers,*  
*and added up the spoil?”*

<sup>19</sup>You won't see those fierce people anymore

whose language nobody could understand.

**Is 33:17-19**

**20**Look at Zion that hosts your appointed festivals;  
you'll see that Jerusalem offers a safe place to live,  
a tent that won't blow over,  
whose stakes won't pull up,  
whose guy ropes don't snap.

**21**Yahveh, the Majestic One, will be there for you,  
a place with streams and canals,  
where no galley will come  
or big ship can sail;

**22**because Yahveh your judge, lawgiver, and king  
will protect you.

**Is 33:20-22**

**23***Your enemies' tackle is hanging loose;*  
it can't hold the mast in place  
or keep the sail spread.  
As God's people, you'll divide the abundant spoil;  
even the lame will gather plunder.

**24**You that live here won't say, "*We're weak and sick,*"  
because God will forgive your sin.

**Is 33:23-24**

### An Oracle for the Nations

**34:1**Come close, nations, and listen!  
world and everything in it, pay attention.

**2**Yahveh is furious with the nations and their armies;  
he'll destroy them and deliver them to slaughter.

**3**Their slain will be thrown out;  
their corpses will reek;  
their blood will soak the hillsides.

**4**The stars will fade out;  
the sky will roll up like a scroll.  
it'll wither away  
like leaves on a grapevine or fig tree.

**Is 34:1-4**

**5***"My sword has drunk its fill in the sky;  
it will come down in condemnation on Edom,  
a nation I've devoted to complete destruction.*

**6***My sword will be bloody,  
covered with the blood of lambs and goats,*

*with the fat on the kidneys of rams;  
because I'll hold a sacrifice in Bozrah,  
a great slaughter in Edom.*

*7Wild oxen will fall with them,  
male calves and great bulls;  
Its ground will be soaked with blood;  
its dust will be greasy from fat."*

**Is 34:6-7**

**8**Yahveh will have a day of vengeance,  
a year of payback for what Edom did to Zion.

**9**Edom's wadis will run with pitch;  
its dirt will become sulfur;  
its ground will be covered with burning tar.

**10**It won't go out day or night;  
its smoke will rise endlessly.

Generation after generation it won't be inhabited;  
nobody will ever travel through it.

**11**Hawks and hedgehogs will take it over;  
owls and ravens will roost there.

God will measure it for desolation,  
hold a plumb line on it for chaos.

**Is 34:8-11**

**12**There won't be anyone to call king;  
no princes, or nobles.

**13**Thorns will grow in its fortresses;  
nettles and thistles will come up in its forts.

It'll be a haunt for jackals,  
a home for owls.

**14**Desert animals will mix with hyenas;  
hairy goats will bleat to one another;  
the night monster [Lilith] will settle down to rest there.

**15**Owls will make nests and lay their eggs there;  
they'll hatch them and gather the brood under their shadow.

Buzzards will gather there in nesting pairs.

**Is 34:12-15**

**16**Read about them in the Book of Yahveh;  
every one is mentioned there with its mate  
because he has commanded,  
and his Spirit will gather them by kinds in pairs.

**17**He has surveyed the land

and deeded it over to them forever.

**Is 34:16-17**

### Joy for the Redeemed

**35:1-2**The desert wilderness will be happy;  
the Arabah will blossom profusely with crocuses,  
and sing and celebrate.

It will be as glorious as Lebanon,  
as majestic as Carmel and Sharon.

They'll see the glory of Yahveh,  
the majesty of our God.

**3**Strengthen feeble hands;  
steady weak knees.

**4**Say to those with pounding hearts,  
*"Be strong and not afraid;  
your God will avenge you and save you."*

**5**He'll open the eyes of the blind  
and unplug the ears of the deaf.

**Is 35:1-5**

**6**The lame will leap like a deer,  
and the mute will shout for joy,  
because water will gush out into the wilderness,  
and streams will water the desert.

**7**Parched land will become a marsh;  
springs will moisten the thirsty ground;  
The jackals' dens will become a swamp.  
grass will give way to reeds and rushes.

**8**There'll be a new highway there  
called The Highway of Holiness.

**9**Lions won't lurk along it;  
vicious animals won't hunt by it.  
Such as those won't live there,  
but the redeemed will walk on it.

**10**The ones Yahveh ransoms will return to Zion  
with happy shouts and crowned with everlasting joy.  
They'll find happiness and joy;  
sorrow and sighing will fade away.

**Is 35:6-10**

### Sennacherib Invades Judah

**36:1**In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked the fortified towns in Judah and took them. **2**He sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem with a

large army. They took position by the aqueduct to the upper pool on the road to the Fuller's Field.  
<sup>3</sup>Eliakim Ben-Hilkiah, the palace administrator; Shebna, the court secretary; and Joah Ben-Asaph, the royal historian, went out to meet them.

<sup>4</sup>The Rabshakeh said,

*"Tell Hezekiah the great king of Assyria says, 'What's this confidence you claim to have? <sup>5</sup>Empty talk can't substitute for military strategy and power. Who are you depending on when you rebel against me? <sup>6</sup>Are you depending on Egypt as a staff? If you lean on that splintering reed, it'll puncture your hand. That's the way Pharaoh operates with everybody that depends on him. <sup>7</sup>If you tell me you're trusting in Yahveh your God, isn't he the One whose high places and altars Hezekiah has closed down, and made Judah and Jerusalem worship at this altar in Jerusalem? <sup>8</sup>Come on, make a deal with my master: I'll give you 2,000 horses if you can put riders on them. <sup>9</sup>Can you drive off even the least of my master's contingents even with the help of Egypt's chariots and cavalry? <sup>10</sup>Anyway, haven't I actually come up at Yahveh's behest to destroy this place? He's told me to attack this land and destroy it."*

Is 36:1-10

<sup>11</sup>Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah told the Rabshakeh, "Speak in Aramaic; we understand it. Don't speak in Hebrew. There are people listening on the wall."

<sup>12</sup>But he shouted in Hebrew,

*"Has my master just sent me to you and your master with this message? Hasn't he also sent me to those people sitting on the wall that are doomed to eat their own feces and drink their own urine with you?"*

Is 36:11-12

<sup>13</sup>"Listen to what the great king of Assyria says, <sup>14</sup>'Don't let Hezekiah deceive you; he can't deliver you. <sup>15</sup>Don't let him make you trust in Yahveh, "Yahveh will deliver us. This city won't be delivered to the king of Assyria." <sup>16</sup>Don't listen to him. Surrender and come out to me. Eat from your own grapevines and fig trees, and drink water from your own cisterns, <sup>17</sup>till I come and take you away to a land like yours, a land with grain and new wine, bread and vineyards. <sup>18</sup>Don't let Hezekiah mislead you. Have any of the nations' gods delivered their lands from the king of Assyria? <sup>19</sup>Where are the gods of Hamath, Arpad, and Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria from me? <sup>20</sup>Will Yahveh deliver Jerusalem from me?'"

<sup>21</sup>But they didn't answer him; the king told them not to. <sup>22</sup>They went to Hezekiah with their clothes torn in despair and told him what the Rabshakeh said.

Is 36:13-21

## Hezekiah Seeks Isaiah's Help

**37:1** When Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, put on burlap, and went to the Temple. **2** He sent Eliakim, Shebna, and the senior priests to the prophet Isaiah. **3** They went to him and said,

*“Hezekiah says, ‘This is a distressing, discouraging, dejecting day. Babies have come due, but there’s no strength to deliver them. **4** Maybe Yahveh your God has heard the Rabshakeh that the king of Assyria sent to mock the living God. Maybe he’ll reprove him for it. Pray for the remnant that’s left.’”* [5]

**6** Isaiah said,

*“Tell your master Yahveh says, ‘You don’t need to be afraid of what the Assyrian king’s messengers have blasphemed. **7** I’ll make him believe a rumor and go back home. He’ll fall by the sword there.’”*

**Is 37:1-7**

**8** Meantime the Rabshakeh went back and found the king of Assyria fighting Libnah, because he’d heard he’d left Lachish. **9** The king had heard that Tirhakah [Taharqa], king of Nubia, had set out to fight him. When the Rabshakeh heard it, he sent ambassadors back to Hezekiah:

**10** “*Don’t let the god you trust in deceive you into thinking Jerusalem won’t fall.* **11** *You’ve heard that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all the countries. Are you going to be spared?* **12** *Did their gods deliver Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, the Edenites in Telassar?* **13** *Where are the kings of Hamath, Arpad, Hena, Ivvah, or the city of Sepharvaim?*”

**Is 37:8-13**

**14** Hezekiah read the letter, then went up to the Temple and unrolled it in Yahveh’s presence. **15** He prayed,

**16** “*Yahveh of Hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubs, you alone are God over the kingdoms. You made earth and sky.* **17** *Incline your ear and hear, open your eyes and see. Listen to what Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God.* **18** *Assyria’s kings have devastated all the nations and their lands.* **19** *They’ve thrown their gods into the fire because they were just hand-made pieces of wood and stone.* **20** *But now, Yahveh our God, deliver us from the one that destroyed those kingdoms so the world can know that you alone are God.”*

**Is 37:14-20**

### Isaiah Predicts Israel’s Deliverance

**21** Then Isaiah sent word to Hezekiah,

*“Yahveh God of Israel says, ‘Because you prayed to me about Sennacherib, **22** I have this to say to him:*

*“The virgin daughter of Zion*

*despises you and laughs at you;  
the young woman of Jerusalem  
shakes her head as you flee,*

**Is 37:21-22**

**23** “Who’ve you been mocking and blaspheming?  
Who’d you raise your voice at  
and roll your eyes about?  
The Holy One of Israel!

**24** You mocked the Lord through your messengers:  
*I came up  
to the highest mountains with many chariots,  
to the most remote parts of Lebanon;  
I cut down its tall cedars, its best cypress;  
I reached its highest peak, its deepest forests.*

**25** I’ve dug wells and refreshed myself with their water  
and dammed up the rivers in Egypt with my feet.’   **Is 37:23-25**

**26** “Haven’t you heard?  
*I decided that very thing long ago;  
I planned it ages back;  
now I’m letting you do it  
so you’ll turn fortified towns into piles of rubble.*

**27** That’s why the people in them are  
so weak, scared, and confused;  
they’re as weak as plants in a field,  
as grass sprouting on housetops  
that’s scorched before it’s grown.

**28** I know when you sit down,  
when you come and go,  
when you rage at me.

**29** Because you raged at me  
and I heard your arrogance myself,  
I’ll put my hook in your nose,  
my bridle in your lips,  
and turn you back the way you came.”                   **Is 37:26-29**

**30** “Hezekiah, I’ll show you what I mean: this year you’ll only eat what volunteers, next year what volunteers from that, but the third year you’ll sow and harvest, tend vineyards and eat their fruit. **31** The surviving remnant of the siege in

*Judah will again take root down and bear fruit up.* <sup>32</sup>*A remnant will go out of Jerusalem, survivors from Mount Zion. The zeal of Yahveh of Hosts will make it happen.*

<sup>33</sup>*Yahveh says, “The king of Assyria and his army won’t come into this city or shoot an arrow here. He won’t approach it with a shield or throw a mound up against its walls.* <sup>34</sup>*He’ll go back home the way he came.* <sup>35</sup>*I’ll save this city for my sake and my servant David.”*

<sup>36</sup>*The angel of Yahveh went out that night and struck 185,000 in the Assyrian camp. When people got up early the next morning, the Assyrians were all dead.* <sup>37</sup>*So Sennacherib went home to live in Nineveh.* <sup>38</sup>*As he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisrock, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword and escaped to the land of Ararat. His son Esarhaddon succeeded him.*

**Is 37:30-38**

### **Hezekiah’s Sickness and Recovery**

<sup>38:1</sup>*Around that time, Hezekiah got deathly ill, and Isaiah came to tell him, “Yahveh says to set your house in order; you’re going to die.”*

<sup>2</sup>*Hezekiah turned to the wall and prayed,* <sup>3</sup>*“Yahwh, please remember how I’ve followed you honestly with all my heart and done what you consider good.” He cried bitterly.*

<sup>4</sup>*Then a message from Yahveh came to Isaiah:*

<sup>5</sup>*“Go back and tell Hezekiah that Yahveh God of your ancestor David says, ‘I’ve heard your prayer and seen your tears. I’ll give you 15 more years to live* <sup>6</sup>*and deliver you and this city from the king of Assyria.* <sup>7</sup>*This is the sign that I’ll do what I’ve said:* <sup>8</sup>*I’ll make the shadow on Ahaz’s stairway go back up 10 steps.”*

So it went back up 10 steps.

**Is 38:1-8**

<sup>9</sup>*A Writing by Hezekiah, King of Judah,  
After His Illness and Recovery*

<sup>10</sup>*“In the prime of life,  
I was headed for the gates of Sheol,  
deprived of the rest of my life.*

<sup>11</sup>*I wouldn’t see Yahveh again while I was alive  
or people in this world.*

<sup>12</sup>*Where I live was being blown away  
like a shepherd’s tent.  
I’ve been rolling up my life like a weaver;  
he was cutting me off the loom,*

*ending my life in one day.*

**13** *I called out for help all night;  
like a lion he was breaking all my bones,  
ending my life.*

**14** *I chattered like a swallow and a crane  
and moaned like a pigeon;  
my weary eyes look up wistfully,  
'Help me, Yahveh, I'm oppressed.'*"

**Is 38:9-14**

**15** "*What could I say?  
You let me know what you'd do and did it;  
I couldn't sleep because of the bitterness.*

**16** *Yahveh, people gain life by hard experiences;  
spiritual life comes from them all;  
now restore my health so I can live!*

**17** *My deep anguish was for my own good;  
you've kept me from the Pit of destruction.*

**18** *Sheol doesn't thank you; death doesn't praise you;  
those who go down to the Pit  
can't experience hope from your faithfulness.*

**19** *Only the living can thank you, as I do today;  
from parent to child, they tell about your faithfulness.*

**20** *Yahveh will surely save me;  
so we'll play my songs on stringed instruments  
the rest of our lives in his Temple."*

**21** Isaiah had said, "*Apply fig salve to the boil so he can recover.*" **22** Hezekiah had asked, "*What's the sign that I'll go up to Yahveh's Temple?*" **Is 38:15-22**

### Envoy from Babylon

**39:1** Soon after this, Merodach-baladan Ben-Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah because he'd heard he'd been sick and had recovered. **2** That pleased Hezekiah, and he showed the *ambassadors* everything in his treasure house, the silver and gold, the spices and precious oil, his whole armory, and everything in his royal treasures. There wasn't anything in his palace or kingdom that he didn't show them. **Is 39:1-2**

**3** Then Isaiah came to ask him, "*What did those men say? Where'd they come from?*"  
*"From a distant country, Babylon."*

**4** "*What have they seen in your palace?*"

*“Everything.”*

**5**Then Isaiah said,

*“Listen to a message from Yahveh of Hosts: **6**‘The time’s coming when everything in your palace, everything your ancestors have stored up, will be carried off to Babylon. **7**Some of your sons will be taken and made officials in the palace of its king.’”*

**8**Hezekiah told Isaiah, “*That’s a good message you’ve brought from Yahveh.*” (He was thinking, “*At least there’ll be peace and truth in my time.*”)

**Is 39:3-8**

### Comfort for God’s People

**40:1**“*Comfort, comfort my people,*” your God says.

**2**“*Speak graciously to Jerusalem;*  
*tell it that its warfare’s over,*  
*its iniquity’s removed,*  
*it’s received from Yahveh*  
*double for its sins.*”

**Is 40:1-2**

**3**A voice is calling,  
*“Build a road for Yahveh in the desert;*  
*make a smooth highway for our God.*

**4***Fill every pothole,*  
*level off every bump and high spot.*  
*Smooth the rough ground*  
*and make rugged terrain like a wide valley.*

**5**Then the glory of Yahveh will come;  
*everyone will see it together.*”

Yahveh has said so.      **Is 40:3-5**

**6**A voice said, “*Shout.*”  
 I answered, “*Shout what?*”  
*“People are like grass;*  
*their beauty is like a flower in a field.*”

**7***Grass withers and flowers fade*  
*when Yahveh blows on them;*  
*people are like that.*

**8***Grass withers and flowers fade,*  
*but Yahveh’s word stands forever.*”

**Is 40:6-8**

<sup>9</sup>Climb a high mountain,  
 Zion, messenger with good news;  
 shout it out;  
 shout it louder;  
 don't hold back;  
 tell the towns in Judah, "*Your God is coming!*"

<sup>10</sup>He'll come with power  
 to rule with his strong arm;  
 he'll bring his reward with him.

<sup>11</sup>He'll tend his flock like a shepherd;  
 he'll pick up the lambs in his arms  
 and carry them against his chest,  
 and gently lead the nursing ewes.

**Is 40:9-11**

<sup>12</sup>Who else has measured the ocean in the palm of his hand  
 or the sky with a span,  
 or counted the dust?

Who else has weighed the mountains in a scales  
 or the hills in a balance?

<sup>13</sup>Who has directed Yahveh's Spirit  
 or instructed him as his advisor?

<sup>14</sup>Who did he consult for enlightenment?  
 Who taught him what's good?

<sup>15</sup>The nations are just a drop in the bucket,  
 a piece of sand on a scales;  
 he picks up islands like specks of dust.

<sup>16</sup>Lebanon couldn't provide enough wood  
 or its animals be sufficient for a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup>All the nations amount to nothing in front of him;  
 they're of no consequence compared to him. **Is 40:12-17**

<sup>18</sup>Who can we compare God to?  
 What's he like?

<sup>19</sup>An idol is something an artisan makes,  
 a goldsmith plates with gold,  
 a silversmith makes silver chains *for*.

<sup>20</sup>People too poor for such an offering

select wood that won't rot  
and find a skilled craftsman  
to prepare an idol that won't fall over.

**Is 40:18-20**

**21**Haven't you heard? Don't you know?  
Didn't anybody tell you at the beginning of *the earth* that  
**22**the One who sits above the circle of the earth,  
whose inhabitants are like grasshoppers *to him*—  
he's the One that stretches out the sky like a curtain,  
spreads it out like a tent to live under.

**23**He's the One that dethrones rulers  
and unseats judges.

**24**They've hardly been planted,  
hardly sown, hardly taken root,  
when he blows on them and they wither,  
and the wind carries them off like chaff.

**25**Who can you compare him with;  
who's his equal?

**26**Look up and see who created those stars,  
who leads the host of them out in full number  
and calls each one by name;  
because of his great power and strength,  
not a one of them is missing.

**Is 40:21-26**

**27**Jacob, why do you think  
Yahveh can't see what you're going through,  
that he doesn't notice the justice you deserve?

**28**Don't you know? Haven't you heard?  
The eternal God, Yahveh,  
the creator of the earth, doesn't get tired;  
no one can measure his intelligence.

**29**He gives stamina to the tired  
and increases strength in the weak.

**Is 40:27-29**

**30**Even youths get weary;  
young men collapse exhausted;

**31**but those who trust in Yahveh  
keep finding new strength;  
they walk and don't get weary;  
they run and don't get tired;

they soar up on wings like eagles.

**Is 40:30-31**

### God's Help for Israel

**41:1** *'Lands beyond the sea, come to order and listen;*

*prepare your case;*

*step forward and present it;*

*your case is next on the docket.*

**2** *Who has stirred up the king in the east*

*that he rightly called to his service,*

*who delivers up nations and subdues kings;*

*who makes them like dust with his sword,*

*like wind-driven chaff with his bow;*

**3** *who chases them away and passes along safely*

*on paths he hasn't walked before?*

**4** *Who does such momentous deeds*

*generation after generation from the beginning till now?*

*I, Yahveh, am the One,*

**Is 41:1-4**

**5** *"The islands have seen it and fear;*

*far-off places tremble;*

*they're coming; they're getting close.*

**6** *Each one encourages the other, 'Be strong!'*

**7** *So the carver encourages the goldsmith;*

*the one that shapes with the hammer*

*encourages the one that beats the anvil,*

*and says of the soldering, 'It's good';*

*he fastens it down with nails*

*so it won't rock.*

**Is 41:5-7**

**8** *"But you, Israel my servant,*

*Jacob my chosen,*

*descendant of Abraham my friend,*

**9** *you that I took from a far-off place*

*and called from the most remote parts*

*and said, 'You're my servant;*

*I've chosen you—*

**10** *don't be afraid, I'm with you;*

*don't look around discouraged; I'm your God;*

*I'll encourage you and help you;*

*you can count on me to hold you up  
with my righteous right hand.’*

**Is 41:8-10**

**11** *All who are incensed at you will be disgraced;  
anybody that opposes you will perish.*

**12** *You’ll look around for people in conflict with you  
and won’t find any;  
any who attack you won’t exist anymore,*

**13** *because I’m Yahveh your God  
that holds you up,  
that tells you,  
‘Don’t be afraid, I’ll help you.’*

**Is 41:11-13**

**14** *So don’t be afraid, Jacob you worm, you people in Israel;  
I’ll help you,” Yahveh says;  
“Your rescuer is the Holy One of Israel.*

**15** *I’ll make you into a new, sharp threshing sledge with teeth;  
you’ll thresh the mountains and pulverize them  
and grind the hills into chaff.*

**16** *You’ll winnow them, the wind will blow them away,  
the storm will scatter them;  
but you’ll celebrate in Yahveh  
and take pride in the Holy One of Israel.*

**Is 41:14-16**

**17** *“The poor and needy are looking for water,  
but there isn’t any;  
their tongues are parched with thirst;  
I, Yahveh, will answer them myself;  
as the God of Israel, I won’t abandon them.*

**18** *I’ll make creeks run in the barren hills  
and open up springs in the valleys below;  
I’ll make the desert a lake of water  
and turn dry land into fountains.*

**Is 41:17-18**

**19** *In the desert I’ll put cedars and acacia trees,  
myrtles and olive trees;  
I’ll plant junipers there  
along with box trees and cypress trees.*

**20** *I’ll do that so people can recognize  
that I’ve done it;  
the Holy One of Israel has created it.*

**Is 41:19-20**

**21** “Present your case for your idols,” Yahveh says;  
 “bring forward your strong proofs,”  
 the King of Jacob says.

**22** “Predict for us what’s going to happen;  
 tell us what happened before  
 so we can connect them with their outcome  
 and learn what those outcomes will be.

**23** State what the future holds  
 so we can tell you are gods;  
 do anything—good or bad—  
 so we can look around and be scared together.

**24** You aren’t anything; you can’t do anything;  
 anybody that chooses you is pathetic.

Is 41:21-24

**25** “I’ve stirred up a leader from the north;  
 he answers me from the rising sun;  
 he’ll come on rulers like on mortar,  
 like a potter treading clay.”

**26** Who predicted this from the start,  
 so we could know about it?  
*Who said it* in former times,  
 so we could say, ‘He was right’?  
 Nobody said anything;  
 nobody heard any god say a word.

Is 41:25-26

**27** “I was the first to tell Zion, ‘Help’s coming,’  
 and Jerusalem, ‘I’ve got good news.’

**28** But when I look,  
 there’s no advisor among them;  
 if I ask them, who can answer?

**29** They’re all fake;  
 they don’t do anything;  
 molten images are wind and hot air.

Is 41:27-29

### The Servant of Yahveh

**42:1** “My Servant that I uphold,  
 my Chosen One I delight in,  
 I’ve put my Spirit on him;  
 he’ll bring righteousness to the Gentiles.

**2** He won’t holler or be boisterous;

*he won't make a racket in the streets.*  
<sup>3</sup>*He won't break a bruised reed  
 or put out a flickering wick;  
 he'll faithfully render justice.*  
<sup>4</sup>*He won't falter or lose heart;  
 he'll establish justice on earth;  
 distant lands will rely on his instruction.”*      **Is 42:1-4**

<sup>5</sup>*God Yahveh says—  
 who created the sky and stretched it out,  
 who made the earth and what comes from it,  
 who gives breath to the people on it  
 and spirit to those who walk in it—*  
<sup>6</sup>*“I'm Yahveh; I've called you to demonstrate my goodness;  
 I'll hold you by the hand and watch over you.  
 I'll appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
 a light for the Gentiles  
<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes of the blind,  
 to free prisoners from dungeons  
 and those living in darkness from prison.*  
<sup>8</sup>*I'm Yahveh; that's my name.  
 I won't share my honor with anyone else  
 or my praise with carved images.*  
<sup>9</sup>*My former prophecies have already happened;  
 now I'm prophesying new ones;  
 I'll tell you about them before they occur.”*      **Is 42:5-9**

### A Song of Praise to Yahveh

<sup>10</sup>*Sing a new song to Yahveh;  
 sing his praise from the ends of the earth,  
 you that sail the ocean,  
 you distant lands and people that live there!*  
<sup>11</sup>*Let the desert towns join the chorus,  
 the villages where Kedar lives;  
 let the people of Sela sing for joy  
 and shout from the mountaintops.*  
<sup>12</sup>*Let them honor Yahveh  
 and declare his praise in distant lands.*  
<sup>13</sup>*He<sup>Y</sup> will rush out like a soldier*

and stir up his fury like a warrior;  
he'll raise his battle cry  
and prevail over his enemies.

**Is 42:10-13**

**14** “I’ve kept quiet,” God says, “and restrained myself for a long time;  
now like a woman in labor, I’ll groan and gasp and pant.

**15** I’ll make mountains and hills desolate  
and wither their vegetation;  
I’ll turn rivers into wadis  
and dry up the ponds.

**16** I’ll lead the blind on a new road,  
guide them in unfamiliar paths;  
I’ll make darkness into light ahead of them  
and make rough places smooth;  
I’ll do these things;  
I won’t leave them undone.

**17** I’ll drive back and completely disgrace  
those who trust in idols  
and say to molten images, ‘You’re our gods.’   **Is 42:14-17**

### Israel Deaf and Blind

**18** Listen, you deaf;  
look, you blind.

**19** Who is as blind as my servant,  
as deaf as my messenger?  
Who is as blind as my chosen people,  
as blind as Yahweh’s servant?

**20** You look at many things, but don’t see;  
your ears are open, but you don’t listen.”

**21** Because he’s good, Yahweh was pleased  
to make his Law great and glorious.

**22** But his people have been robbed and plundered,  
trapped in caves and hidden in prisons;  
they’ve become prey with no savior,  
spoil with nobody to demand, “Give them back!”

**Is 42:18-22**

**23** Who among you will learn from the past?  
Who will listen about the future?

**24** Who gave Jacob up for spoil and Israel to plunderers?

Wasn't it Yahveh that you've sinned against,  
 whose ways you wouldn't follow,  
 whose Law you didn't obey?

<sup>25</sup>So he poured out his hot anger on you in fierce warfare  
 and enveloped you in flames;  
 you didn't catch on, and it burned you;  
 you didn't take it to heart.

Is 42:23-25

### Israel's Only Savior

**43:1** But this is what Yahveh your creator says, Jacob,  
 the One that formed you, Israel,  
**"You don't need to be afraid, because I've redeemed you  
 and called you by name. You're mine!"**

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the sea, I'm with you;  
 when you cross rivers, they won't flood over you;  
 when you walk through fire, the flame won't burn you;  
<sup>3</sup>because I'm Yahveh your God,  
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
 I've given Egypt to ransom you,  
 Nubia and Seba in exchange for you.

Is 43:1-3

<sup>4</sup>Since you're precious to me,  
 since you're honored and I love you,  
 I'll trade other people in return for you,  
 others in exchange for your life.

**5** **You don't need to be afraid, because I'm with you;**  
 I'll bring your offspring from the east and west.

<sup>6</sup> I'll say to the north, 'Give them up!'  
 and to the south, 'Quit holding onto them.'  
 Bring my sons and daughters from distant countries—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone that wears my name,  
 that I've created for my honor.'

Is 43:4-7

<sup>8</sup> Bring out the blind, though they have eyes,  
 and the deaf, though they have ears.

<sup>9</sup> Gather the nations; assemble the peoples.  
 Which of their idols can tell about the past?  
 They need to present witnesses to justify themselves  
 that what they say is true.

**10** “*You’re my witnesses, Israel,*” Yahveh says,  
 “*the servant I’ve chosen*  
*so you can know me and believe me,*  
*and understand that I’m the only One;*  
*no god ever existed before me;*  
*none will exist after me.*

**11** *I’m Yahveh;*  
*there’s no Savior but me.*

**12** *I’m the One that predicted it, did it, and proclaimed it*  
*before there was any foreign god among you;*  
*so you’re my witnesses,”* Yahveh says;  
*“I’m God.*

**13** *From eternity I’m God;*  
*No one can take anyone away from me;*  
*no one can undo what I do.”*

**Is 43:8-13**

### **Yahveh’s Promised Victory**

**14** This is what Yahveh your Rescuer says,  
*“To help you, I’ll dispatch an army against Babylon*  
*to drive them out as refugees*  
*in the ships they’re proud of;*  
*the Babylonians’ celebration will turn into mourning.*

**15** *I’m your King, Israel’s Creator,*

**16** *who made a path through the Red Sea,*  
*a road through the flood,*

**17** *who brought out in Egypt horse and chariot,*  
*army and soldier.*

*They all lay down at the same time, drowned,*  
*snuffed out like a flickering wick.*

**Is 43:14-17**

**18** But don’t just recall those former things  
*or ponder the past.*

**19** Duly note something new I’m doing now;  
*it’s happening; see it?*  
*I’m making, like before, a highway in the wilderness,*  
*streams in the desert.*

**20** Wild animals will honor me,  
*jackals and owls;*  
*because I’ve put water in the wilderness*  
*and streams in the desert*  
*so my people can drink.*

**21** *The people I created for myself at that time  
will one day declare my praise worldwide.*      **Is 43:18-21**

**22** *"Yet recently you haven't called on me for help, Jacob;  
you're tired of me, Israel.*

**23** *You haven't brought me the sheep for your burnt offerings  
or honored me with your sacrifices,  
though I haven't burdened you down with offerings  
or worn you out with incense.*

**24** *You haven't bought any calamus for me  
or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.  
Instead, you've burdened me down with your sins;  
I'm tired of your iniquities.*      **Is 43:22-24**

**25** *"I, yes, I am the One that will erase  
your transgressions for my own sake  
and not hold onto your sin against me.*

**26** *Remember me; let's debate our case together;  
state your evidence for being innocent.*

**27** *But from the time of your first ancestor  
through your subsequent leaders,  
you've sinned against me.*

**28** *So I profaned the priests of the sanctuary;  
I delivered Jacob to total destruction  
and Israel to lasting contempt.*      **Is 43:25-28**

**44:1** *"But listen now, Jacob my servant,  
Israel my chosen one.*

**2** *This is what Yahveh says who created you  
and formed you from the womb,  
who will help you:  
'Don't be afraid, Jacob my servant,  
Jeshurun my chosen one.*

**3** *As I'll pour out water on thirsty ground  
to make streams on desert land,  
I'll also pour out my Spirit on your offspring  
and bless your descendants;*

**4** *they'll thrive like well-watered grass,*

*like poplars beside streams.*  
<sup>5</sup>*This one will say, “I belong to Yahveh”; that one will wear Jacob’s name; others will write on their hand, “Belonging to Yahveh,” and name Israel’s God with honor.”* **Is 44:1-5**

## The Folly of Idols

<sup>6</sup>This is what the King of Israel says<sup>Y</sup>,  
its Redeemer, Yahveh of Hosts,  
*“I’m the first and last;  
there’s no God but me.*

<sup>7</sup>*Who is like me? Speak up;  
recount things to me in sequence  
from the time I created this ancient nation;  
then tell that nation what's going to happen to them.*

<sup>8</sup> *Don't tremble in fear;  
haven't I announced it to you long ago?  
You're my witnesses.  
Is there any God but me?  
Is there any other Rock?  
I don't know of a one."*

Is 44:6-8

<sup>9</sup>Those who carve idols don't accomplish anything because their precious objects can't do anything. Their worshippers don't know *that*; so they'll be put to shame. <sup>10</sup>Who but fools make their own gods and then worship them? <sup>11</sup>The craftsmen are mere mortals. They'll all gather with the worshipers, take their stand, and go down in terror and infamy.

<sup>12</sup>A blacksmith shapes iron into a cutting tool over coals *in his forge*. He beats it with hammers till he gets hungry and weak, thirsty and tired. <sup>13</sup>Then a carver shapes a block of wood, stretches out a measuring line on it, and draws a pattern on it with red chalk. He works it with chisels and planes *to look* like a beautiful human figure to set in a little shrine in *somebody's* house. <sup>14</sup>He cuts down a cedar, takes a cypress or oak, and plants a fir tree in the woods, and the rain makes it grow. <sup>15-16</sup>It becomes something he can burn. So he burns half of it to warm himself up and say “*Ah, I'm warm; the heat feels good.*” Or he bakes bread and eats a roast and is satisfied. <sup>17</sup>He carves the other half into an image, his god. He falls down to it, worships it, and prays to it, “*Deliver me, my god.*”

<sup>18</sup>They don't understand because God has glazed over their eyes so they can't see, and closed their minds so they can't think. <sup>19</sup>The one that made it doesn't stop to reflect,

*"I burned half of it to bake bread and roast meat; I worshiped the other half!"*

<sup>20</sup>He eats ashes and trusts something that can't help him. He doesn't ask, "Am I holding something fake in my hand?"

### Restoration for Jerusalem

<sup>21</sup>"Remember, Jacob and Israel; you're my servant;  
I made you; I won't forget you.

<sup>22</sup>I've wiped out your transgressions like a dark cloud,  
your sins like a heavy morning fog;  
come back to me; I've redeemed you."

<sup>23</sup>Shout for joy, sky, because Yahveh made you!  
Make a joyful sound, depths of the earth.  
Break into singing, mountains, forest, and every tree in them;  
Yahveh has redeemed Jacob and taken pride in Israel.

Is 44:18-23

<sup>24</sup>This is what Yahveh your Redeemer says  
who formed you in the womb,  
'I'm the One that made everything:  
I stretched out the sky by myself  
and spread out the earth.  
Who helped me?

<sup>25</sup>I expose false prophets' omens  
and make fools out of fortunetellers;  
I force the wise to eat their words  
and turn their "knowledge" into nonsense.

Is 44:24-25

<sup>26</sup>I carry out my prophets' predictions  
and perform my messengers' advice;  
I'm the One that says Jerusalem will be inhabited  
and the towns in Judah will be rebuilt!

<sup>27</sup>I'm the One that tells the deep ocean to dry up  
and its currents will be dry.

<sup>28</sup>I say about Cyrus, 'He's my shepherd!  
He'll do everything I tell him';  
he'll decree that Jerusalem will be rebuilt  
and the Temple foundations will be laid again."

Is 44:26-28

### Cyrus, Yahveh's Chosen One

**45:1**This is what Yahveh says to Cyrus his anointed  
whose right hand he'll empower  
to subdue nations and dethrone kings,

to open fortress gates so they won't be shut:

**2** "I'll go ahead of you to level out the mountains,  
shatter bronze gates, and cut through their iron bars.

**3** I'll give you treasures stored in the dark  
and wealth hidden in secret places,  
so you'll know it's me,  
Yahveh God of Israel, who calls you by name.

**4** For the sake of Jacob my servant,  
Israel my chosen one,  
I've called you by name  
and given you an honorable title  
even though you didn't know me.

Is 45:1-4

**5** I'm Yahveh; there's no other;  
there's no God but me.

I'll arm you for war though you don't know who I am,  
**6** so people from sunrise to sunset  
can know there's no God but me.

**I'm Yahveh; there's no other,**

**7** Yahveh that creates light and makes darkness,  
that sends peace and brings catastrophe—  
I'm Yahveh that does all of that.

Is 45:5-7

**8** "Sky, shower from above;  
clouds, rain down goodness;  
ground, open up so salvation can sprout  
and goodness can spring up from you.  
I'm Yahveh your creator.

Is 45:8

**9** "Misfortune awaits the ones that fuss at their Maker  
like a clay pot fussing at a potter!  
Will a pot say to a potter, 'What are you doing?'  
or 'What you're making doesn't have any handles'?

**10** Misfortune awaits the baby that says to its father,  
'Why did you beget me?'  
or its mother, 'Why did you have me?'"

Is 45:9-10

**11** Yahveh, the Holy One of Israel and your Maker, says  
"Will you question me about my children  
or tell me how to do my work?"

**12** *I'm the One that made the world and created people in it;  
I stretched out the sky and hung the stars there.*

**13** *I'll stir up Cyrus for my righteous purposes  
and smooth his paths;  
he'll rebuild my city and free my exiles  
without payment or reward."*

**Is 45:11-13**

### **Yahveh, the Only Savior**

**14** Yahveh says,

*"Egyptians, Nubians, and Sabeans—men of stature—  
will come in chains and fall down in front of you;  
their wealth and merchandise will be yours.*

*They'll say to you,  
'God is with you for sure;  
there's nobody else, **no other God.**'"*

**15** Truly you're a God that works in mysterious ways,  
God of Israel, Savior!

**16** They'll be disgraced who manufacture idols;  
they'll go away together in humiliation.

**17** Yahveh will deliver Israel permanently;  
*Israel won't ever be put to shame.*

**Is 45:14-17**

**18** Yahveh says—who created the sky,  
who made the earth and shaped it,  
who didn't make it waste and void,  
but shaped it to be lived in—  
*"I'm Yahveh; there's no other.*

**19** *I haven't spoken secretly in some dark corner;  
I didn't tell Jacob's descendants  
to look for me in a desolate place;  
I'm straightforward  
and declare what makes sense.*

**Is 45:18-19**

**20** *"Get together and return;  
come near together, refugees from the nations around.  
They don't know what they're doing  
who carry around wooden idols  
and pray to gods that can't save.*

**21** *Consult together and set forth your case.*

*Who predicted those things from of old?  
 What idol has proclaimed it for so long?  
 Am I not the One, Yahveh?  
**There's no God but me,**  
 an upright God and Savior;  
**there's none but me.***

**22**Turn to me and be saved, people everywhere,  
 because **I'm God, there's no other.**

Is 45:20-22

**23**I've sworn by myself;  
 I won't take back the reliable message,  
 the message that every knee will bow to me  
 and every tongue will swear allegiance.

**24**They'll say about me,  
 'Godliness and strength are only in Yahveh.'  
 People will come to me;  
 everyone that's been mad at me will be put to shame.'"

**25**Israel's offspring will be justified  
 and honored in Yahveh.

Is 45:23-25

### Babylon's False Gods

**46:1**Bel bows down, Nebo stoops over;  
 their images, loaded on beasts of burden and livestock,  
 are too heavy for their tired animals to bear.

**2**The idols themselves are stooped over;  
 their owners are bowed down too;  
 the people couldn't keep the burden  
 from going into captivity with them.

Is 46:1-2

**3**"Listen to me, House of Jacob,  
 remnant of Israel, you that I've carried from birth,  
**4**till your graying years I'll do the same;  
 I've made you, and I'll take care of you,  
 carry you along, and save you.

Is 46:3-4

**5**"What can you compare me with?  
 Who's my equal?

**6**Those who lavish gold from the purse  
 and weigh silver on the scale,  
 hire a goldsmith to make a god out of it;

*then they bow down to worship it.*  
<sup>7</sup>*They lift it up on their shoulder and carry it around;  
 they set it in its place, and it doesn't move.  
 If they call out to it, it can't answer  
 or deliver them from their trouble.*      **Is 46:5-7**

<sup>8</sup>*"Remember this and be confident about it, sinners.  
 Keep in mind the things from long ago,  
 because I'm God; there's no one like me.*

<sup>10</sup>*I predict the end from the beginning,  
 from ancient times what hasn't happened yet.  
 I say, 'My purpose will come about;  
 I'll accomplish what I delight in.'*

<sup>11</sup>*I'll call a bird of prey from the east,  
 a leader from a distant country to do my bidding.  
 I've said truthfully what I'd do,  
 and I'll do it.*

**Is 46:8-11**

<sup>12</sup>*"Listen to me, stubborn people  
 who are so far from being good;*

<sup>13</sup>*I'm willing to bring my goodness now;  
 my salvation is not something distant  
 that will take a long time to get here;  
 I'll show Zion my salvation  
 and Israel my glory now.*

**Is 46:12-13**

### Prediction of the Fall of Babylon

<sup>47:1</sup>*"Come sit in the dirt,  
 virgin daughter of Babylon.  
 Sit on the ground without a throne;  
 you won't be treated honorably anymore.*

<sup>2</sup>*Grind meal with heavy millstones;  
 take off your veil, strip off your skirt,  
 uncover your legs and cross the rivers.*

<sup>3</sup>*Your nakedness will show;  
 your shame will be exposed;  
 in my revenge I won't spare you or anybody else."*    **Is 47:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>*Our Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel;*

Yahveh of Hosts is his name.

- <sup>5</sup>“*Sit silently in the dark,  
daughter of Babylon;  
you won’t be called  
the queen of kingdoms anymore.*
- <sup>6</sup>*I was angry with my people  
and punished them by letting them fall to you.  
But you didn’t show them any mercy;  
you put a heavy yoke even on the elderly.*

- <sup>7</sup>*Yet you said, ‘I’ll be queen forever’;  
you were thoughtless about these things  
and didn’t consider the consequences.*

Is 47:4-7

- <sup>8</sup>“*Listen to this, you that love pleasure,  
that live securely and tell yourselves,  
‘I exist and nobody can harm me;  
I’ll never be a widow or lose my children.’*

- <sup>9</sup>*But both will happen to you suddenly the same day—  
losing your children and becoming a widow;  
those disasters will come on you in full measure  
despite your many sorceries and powerful spells.”*

Is 47:8-9

- <sup>10</sup>“*You felt secure in your sinfulness and said,  
‘Nobody can see me.’  
Your ‘wisdom and knowledge’ have misled you;  
you’ve told yourself,  
‘I exist and nobody can harm me.’*

- <sup>11</sup>*But misfortune will come on you  
that you can’t charm away;  
disaster will fall on you  
that you can’t buy off;  
destruction will meet you suddenly  
that you’re not prepared for.*

Is 47:10-11

- <sup>12</sup>“*Stick with your spells and sorceries  
that you’ve labored under since you were young;  
maybe you can scare somebody.*

- <sup>13</sup>*You’re tired of all the advice you’ve received;  
let the astrologers—who prophesy by the stars,*

*and predict by the new moon—  
stand up and save you from what's coming.*

- 14** *They're like chaff in a fire;  
they can't deliver themselves from the flames;  
there won't be any good place for you to sit and keep warm.*
- 15** *That's the way it is for the ones you've worked with  
and done business with from your youth;  
each one will go off in their own direction;  
nobody can save you.*

**Is 47:12-15**

### **Stubborn Israel**

**48:1** *"Listen to this, Jacob called 'Israel,'  
that came from Judah's family,  
that swear by Yahveh and invoke Israel's God,  
but not sincerely and rightly,*

**2** *that call yourself The Holy City  
and depend on Yahveh of Hosts:*

**Is 48:1-2**

**3** *long ago, I told you what was going to happen;  
all at once it has; my prediction has come true.*

**4** *I know how stubborn you are,  
that your neck is as stiff as iron,  
and your head is as hard as bronze.*

**5** *I made my prediction long ago  
so you couldn't say your idol did it,  
that your carved image, your molten god commanded it.'*

**Is 48:3-5**

**6** *"You've heard my predictions and seen them fulfilled,  
but you still won't own up to them;  
now I'll tell you things you haven't heard.*

**7** *They're not things from long ago;  
so you can't claim you knew them all along.*

**8** *I know what traitors you are;  
you've been rebels from birth.*

**9** *Yet for my name's sake, I've delayed expressing my anger;  
for my honor I've restrained it  
to keep from wiping you out.*

**10** *I've refined you, but not like silver;  
I've refined you in the furnace of suffering.*

**11**For my own sake—yes, I'll do it for my own sake—  
 I won't let my reputation be tarnished;  
 I won't share my honor with idols.

**Is 48:6-11**

### Israel Freed from Babylon

**12**"Listen to me, Jacob, Israel that I've chosen;  
 I'm the only One, the first and the last.  
**13**I'm the One that founded the earth  
 and spread out the sky;  
 when I call out the stars, they come out in force.  
**14**Come here, all of you, and listen!  
 Which of your idols has told you this?  
 I've set my regard on Cyrus;  
 he'll carry out my intentions on Babylon;  
 he'll oppose the Babylonians.  
**15**There I've said it; I've called him;  
 I've brought him; he'll succeed.  
**16**Come close and listen:  
 from the beginning I've spoken plainly  
 about what would happen."

Already the Lord Yahveh and his Spirit have sent me with that message.

**Is 48:12-16**

**17**This is what Yahveh says,  
 your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:  
 "I'm Yahveh your God  
 that teaches you how to be succeed  
 and leads you the way you should go.

**18**If only you'd paid attention to what I told you,  
 you'd have had peace like a river  
 and goodness like ocean waves washing over you.

**19**Your descendants would have been too numerous to count,  
 like grains of sand by the seashore;  
 I wouldn't have needed to cut them off  
 or destroy them out of my presence."

**Is 48:17-19**

**20**"Get out of Babylon! Escape from the Babylonians!  
 Shout the news everywhere with joy:  
 Yahveh has rescued his servant Jacob!

**21**They weren't thirsty while he led them through the desert;

*he made water gush out of rock for them to drink;*  
**22** “But there’s no peace for the wicked,” Yahveh says.      Is 48:20-22

## The Servant of the LORD

**49:1** Listen, far off lands;  
pay attention, distant nations.  
Yahveh called me before I was born;  
he named me inside my mother's body.

**2** He made my mouth like a sharp sword  
and hid me under his hand;  
he made a polished arrow out of me  
and put me in his quiver.

**3** He told me, “*You're my servant, Israel;*  
*I'll demonstrate my glory in you.*”

**4** But I replied, “*I haven't really accomplished anything;*  
*I've just worn myself out for nothing;*  
*yet surely my just due is in Yahveh's hands;*  
*I'll have to trust him for my reward.*”

<sup>5</sup>Yahveh says,  
    who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
        and bring Jacob back to him  
(because Yahveh values me and strengthens me):  
<sup>6</sup>*“It’s not a minor thing to serve me  
    and restore the remnant in Israel;  
I’ll also make you a light to the Gentiles,  
    to take the news about my salvation all over the world.”*

<sup>7</sup>This is what Israel’s Redeemer says  
    to the despised nation,  
        the one that *other* nations abhor,  
    the servant of rulers:  
*“Kings will stand at attention when they see you;  
officials will bow  
    because of Yahveh, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel that has chosen you.”* Is 49:5-7

## **The Restoration of Israel Promised**

<sup>8</sup>Yahveh says,  
*"I'll respond to you at an appropriate time"*

*and help you when you need deliverance.  
I'll offer you as a covenant to the people  
to restore Israel's land,  
to parcel out its deserted territories,  
<sup>9</sup>to say to the ones in bonds, 'Be free,'  
and to those in darkness, 'Come out into the light.'*

My 'sheep' will graze along the roads  
and pasture on the former barren hills.                   **Is 49:8-9**

**10**They won't be hungry or thirsty;  
the scorching heat won't oppress them,  
because the One that shows them mercy  
will lead them to springs of running water.

**11**I'll make my mountains a level road  
and raise my highways above the valleys.

**12**They'll come from a long way off,  
some from the north and west,  
some from the region of Sinim."

**13**Shout for joy, earth; celebrate, sky!  
Break out into singing, mountains!  
Yahveh will comfort his people  
and shown mercy to his suffering ones.                   **Is 49:10-13**

**14**Yet Zion says, "Yahveh has abandoned me;  
he's forgotten about me."

**15**But Yahveh says,  
"Can a mother forget her nursing child  
or withhold mercy from the son she bore?  
Even if you forget, I won't.

**16**I've written your name on my palms;  
your fallen walls are always on my mind.

**17**Those who rebuild you will soon return to start their work;  
the ones that want to destroy you will leave.

**18**Look up and around;  
your people are gathering to you.  
As I live," Yahveh says,  
"you'll put them all on  
like a bride attaches jewels to her wedding gown.

**Is 49:14-18**

**19**In place of your empty spaces,

*you'll be overrun with residents;  
your enemies that swallowed you will be long gone.*

**20** *The children born in exile will tell you  
it's too crowded here.*

**21** *You'll ask yourselves.*

*'Who was their father?*

*I was bereaved and barren,*

*wandering in exile;*

*I was alone; who had all these children?*

*Who raised them?'''*

**Is 49:19-21**

**22** *The Lord Yahveh says,*

*"I'll signal to the nations  
to bring back your boys in their arms  
and to carry your little girls on their shoulders.*

**23** *Kings will be your foster fathers;*

*queens will be your nurses.*

*They'll bow to you,*

*and lick the dust off your feet.*

*You'll know I'm Yahveh;*

*the ones that trust me won't be disappointed.* **Is 49:22-23**

**24** *Can anybody steal prey back from a warrior  
or rescue captives from a tyrant?*

**25** *But Yahveh says,*

*"I'll even retrieve the captives of the strong  
and rescue the tyrant's prey.*

*I'll combat anybody that combats you,*

*and save your children.*

**26** *I'll make your oppressors eat their own flesh  
and get drunk on their own blood.*

*Everyone will know I'm Yahveh, your Savior,*

*your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."*

**Is 49:24-26**

### **Israel's Sin and the Servant's Obedience**

**50:1** *Yahveh says,*

*"Did I put your mother away with divorce papers?*

*Did I sell you as slaves to pay my debts?*

*No, I sold you because of your transgressions*

*and divorced your mother for her sins.*

**2**When I came, why wasn't anybody home?

*When I knocked, why didn't anyone answer the door?*

*Am I too poor to pay a ransom;*

*don't I have the strength to rescue?*

*I can dry up the sea with a word,*

*make rivers empty and the fish in them die and stink.*

**3**I dress the sky in darkness

*and cover it with burlap."*

**Is 50:1-3**

**4**The Lord Yahveh has given me a disciple's tongue,  
so I can comfort the weary with a message.

He wakes me up morning after morning  
to help me understand his will.

**5**He's cleaned out my ears,  
and I haven't pulled away.

**6**I've turned my back to the ones who scourge me  
and my cheeks to those who pull out my beard.

I haven't covered my face from being spitting on.

**7**He helps me so I'm not disgraced.  
I set my face like flint

and know I won't feel ashamed.

**Is 50:4-7**

**8**The One that vindicates me is close at hand;  
who wants to fight *me*?

Let's stand up to each other.

Who wants to take me to court?

Go on, sue me!

**9**The Lord helps me;  
who can condemn me?

Adversaries will wear out like old, moth-eaten clothes.

**10**Who among you respects Yahveh,  
obeys his servant,

and *still* lives in the dark?

Trust Yahveh and rely on him.

**11**You that live by the light of the fires you set  
will fall into them in torment.

**Is 50:8-11**

## **Everlasting Salvation for Israel**

**51:1**“*Listen to me, you that want to be good,*

*that look to Yahveh,  
the Rock you were hewn from,  
the quarry you came from.*

<sup>2</sup>*Look to Abraham your ancestor,  
to Sarah who bore you in pain;  
he was just one man when I called him;  
then I blessed him and multiplied him.”*

<sup>3</sup>*Indeed, Yahveh will comfort Zion again  
and have mercy on its desolate places;  
he’ll make its wilderness like Eden,  
its desert like Yahveh’s orchard.  
Joy and happiness will be there,  
thanksgiving and songs.*

**Is 51:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>*“Listen, my people;  
pay attention, my nation,  
because my law will go out from me;  
my justice will shine like a light for the nations,  
to distant lands that wait for me.*

<sup>5</sup>*My goodness will come soon  
to set my deliverance in motion,  
my arms will bring justice to the nations;  
the distant lands will look to me.*

<sup>6</sup>*Look up at the sky;  
then look at the earth below it,  
because the sky will dissipate like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment  
the people in it will die like gnats;  
but my deliverance will be permanent,  
my goodness won’t end.*

**Is 51:4-6**

<sup>7</sup>*Listen, you that know goodness  
and have my Law in your heart;  
don’t worry about criticism  
or be intimidated by scorn;  
<sup>8</sup>moths will eat away at your adversaries like a cloak;  
worms will consume them like wool;  
but my goodness will last forever,  
my deliverance will continue to all generations.”*

<sup>9</sup>*Wake up, wake up, show your strength, arm of Yahveh;*

wake up as in the old days, generations ago;  
 wasn't it you that cut Rahab in pieces,  
 that pierced the dragon?

**Is 51:7-9**

**10**Wasn't it you that dried up the sea,  
 the water in the great deep,  
 that made it a path  
 for the rescued to pass through?

**11**The ones Yahveh has ransomed will return  
 to Zion with happy shouts,  
 crowned with everlasting joy;  
 sorrow and sighing will disappear.

**Is 51:10-11**

**12**"I'm the One that gives you assurance.

*Why be afraid of mortals  
 that wither like grass?*

**13***Why forget Yahveh your Maker  
 that stretched out the sky  
 and laid the foundations for the world?  
 Why constantly fear your enemies' fury  
 when they threaten to destroy you?  
 Where's the fury of those oppressors now?*

**14***Exiles will soon be free;  
 they won't starve to death in dungeons,*

**15***because I'm Yahveh your God  
 that stirs up the sea and makes its breakers roar.  
 ("Yahveh of Hosts" is my title.)*

**16***I've put my message in your mouth  
 and covered you with my hand  
 to establish the sky,  
 to found the earth,  
 to tell Zion, 'You're my people.'"*

**Is 51:12-16**

**17**Wake up! Jerusalem;  
 get up, you that drank from Yahveh's hand  
 the cup of his anger,  
 that drank to the dregs the chalice  
 that made you stagger.

**18**Out of all the children you've borne and raised,  
 there's no one to take you by the hand and guide you.

**19**Two things have happened to you:  
devastation and destruction, sword and famine.

Who's going to mourn for you?  
How can I comfort you?

**20**Your children have fainted;  
they lie helpless at the head of every street  
like an antelope in a net,  
full of Yahveh's anger, your God's rebuke.

**Is 51:17-20**

**21**So listen to this, oppressed people,  
drunk but not with wine;

**22**this is what your Lord says, Yahveh your God  
that contends for his people:

*I've taken out of your hand  
the cup filled with my anger,  
the chalice that made you stagger;  
you won't have to drink it anymore.*

**23***I'll hand it to your tormentors to drink  
who told you to lie down so they could walk on you.  
You made your back like the ground,  
like a street for them to tread."*

**Is 51:21-23**

### Deliverance for Jerusalem

**52:1**Wake up, wake up;  
dress yourself with strength, Zion;  
put on your beautiful clothes, Jerusalem the holy city;  
defiled, godless people won't invade you anymore.

**2**Get up, shake off the dust, captive Jerusalem;  
take the chains off your neck, resident in Zion,

**3**because Yahveh says:

*"You were sold for nothing;  
you'll be redeemed without money.*

**4***In the beginning my people went down to Egypt to live;  
now the Assyrians oppress them for no reason.*

**5***Why are my people enslaved for nothing  
and their rulers wail and blaspheme me all the time?*

**6***Now my people will know my name;  
they'll know I'm the one that's talking to them."*

**Is 52:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>How welcome on the mountains  
 is the messenger that brings good news,  
 that announces peace and happiness,  
 that declares salvation and says to Zion,  
 “*Your God reigns!*”

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your watchmen are happy and singing;  
 they can see that Yahveh is restoring Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break out in joyful song together,  
 you laid-waste places in Jerusalem,  
 because Yahveh has comforted his people;  
 he’s redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>He’s bared his holy arm  
 so the nations can witness the deliverance he’s *bringing*.

<sup>11</sup>Leave, leave there; don’t hang onto anything defiled;  
 purify yourselves, you that bring back Yahveh’s sacred objects.

<sup>12</sup>You won’t go out quickly like fleeing refugees;  
 Yahveh will lead you out;  
 the God of Israel will be your rear guard. Is 52:7-12

### The Suffering Servant Poem (52:13-53:12)

<sup>13</sup>My servant will succeed;  
 he’ll be looked up to and highly honored.

<sup>14</sup>But, even as many were astonished at you, *my people*,  
 so his *astonishing* appearance was marred beyond human resemblance;  
 his form *mutilated* beyond recognition.

<sup>15</sup>He’ll cleanse many nations;  
 kings will shut their mouths in his presence.  
 They’ll see what they had no one to tell them  
 and understand what they hadn’t heard. Is 52:13-15

**53:**<sup>1</sup>Who has believed our message?

Who has Yahveh shown his arm to?  
 He grew up before *Yahveh* like a tender sprout,  
 like a shoot out of parched ground.

<sup>2</sup>He wasn’t particularly handsome or noble  
 to draw our attention to him  
 or have the looks that would attract us to him.

<sup>3</sup>People despised and abandoned him,

a pained man, acquainted with grief;  
 like someone people look the other way from,  
 we looked down on him and didn't respect him.      **Is 53:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>Actually though, he was shouldering our weaknesses  
 and carrying our pains,  
 but we considered him  
 someone God struck and made suffer.

<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our sins,  
 crushed for our iniquities.  
 The discipline that was for our welfare fell on him,  
 and by his scourging we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>We've all wandered off like sheep  
 and turned to our own way;  
 but Yahveh laid on him the sinfulness of us all.      **Is 53:4-6**

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and suffering,  
 but he didn't say anything;  
 like a lamb they led to slaughter  
 or a sheep silent before its shearers,  
 he didn't open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup>He was taken away by oppression and condemnation;  
 who realized at the time  
 that he was being cut off from the living  
 for the sins of my people, who deserved the stroke?

<sup>9</sup>They assigned his grave with criminals  
 though he hadn't deceived or been violent;  
 yet he was *associated* with a rich man in his death.      **Is 53:7-9**

<sup>10</sup>But it was Yahveh's plan to crush him,  
 to put him to grief;  
 when he offers himself as a guilt offering,  
 he'll see his offspring and extend his life,  
 and Yahveh will accomplish his good pleasure in him.

<sup>11</sup>He'll see what results from his anguish and feel fulfilled;  
 by his experience, my servant the upright one,  
 will justify many by shouldering their sins.

<sup>12</sup>So *God* will assign him a place among the great,  
 and he'll divide the spoil with the strong

because he poured out his life  
when they treated him like a transgressor.  
But he was shouldering many *other* people's sins  
and interceding for them.

Is 53:10-12

### The Future Glory for Zion

**54:1** “*Shout for joy, childless woman;*  
*break into joyful shouting and cry out,*  
*you that have never had birth pangs;*  
*because the woman that's by herself*  
*will have more children than a married woman,”*

Yahveh says.

**2** “*Make a bigger space for your tent;*  
*stretch out its curtains—don't hold back;*  
*lengthen your guy ropes and drive your pegs deeper.*

**3** *You'll spread out left and right;*  
*your descendants will live in the nations*  
*and resettle the ruined towns.*

Is 54:1-3

**4** “*Don't be afraid, you won't be disgraced;*  
*don't feel humiliated, you won't feel ashamed.*  
*You'll forget the shame of your youth;*  
*you won't remember the disgrace of your widowhood;*

**5** *because your husband is your Maker;*  
*his name is Yahveh of Hosts;*  
*your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,*  
*the God of the whole world.*

Is 54:4-5

**6** *Yahveh has called to you*  
*like a wife abandoned and grieving,*  
*like a young woman divorced.*

**7** *For a short time I separated from you,*  
*but I'll bring you back with mercy.*

**8** *To show you my anger,*  
*I withdrew from you awhile;*  
*but with enduring love,*  
*I'll have mercy on you now,”*

Yahveh your Redeemer says. Is 54:6-8

**9** “*This is like Noah's time to me,*

*when I swore that water like he saw  
wouldn't flood the world again;  
In that same way I swear now  
that I won't be angry with you or rebuke you.*

**10** Mountains may quake and hills may shake,  
but I won't remove my enduring love from you  
or break my covenant for peace with you,"

**Yahveh says who has mercy for you.**

Is 54:9-10

**11** “*Suffering city, storm-tossed and uncomforted,  
I'll rebuild you with stones set in antimony  
and lay your foundations in lapis lazuli.*

<sup>12</sup>*I'll make your battlements out of rubies,  
your gates out of carbuncles,  
your entire wall out of precious stones*

<sup>13</sup> All your descendants will be Yahveh's disciples; they'll prosper greatly.

<sup>14</sup> You'll be established in goodness  
far from fear and oppression,  
terror won't get near you.

**15** If anybody assaults you, it won't be because I sent them; whoever attacks you will fall in defeat.

<sup>16</sup>*I've created blacksmiths that blow the burning coals  
and make weapons for their purpose;  
I've also created destroyers that ruin them.*

<sup>17</sup>No weapon designed to oppose you will achieve its aim;  
you'll refute whoever brings charges against you in court.  
I'll vindicate you," Yahweh says.                   **Is 54:11-17**

## **Invitation to Yahveh's Salvation**

**55<sup>1</sup>** “Everyone that’s thirsty, come to the water;  
you that don’t have any money, come, buy, and eat;  
get wine and milk for free.

<sup>2</sup>Why spend money on what's not food,  
wages on what doesn't satisfy?

<sup>3</sup>Come and listen so you can live;  
I'll make an everlasting covenant with you  
like the faithful mercies I showed David.

<sup>4</sup>I've appointed him as a witness to the nations,

*a leader and commander for them.*

**5** *You too will call nations you don't know;  
nations that don't know you will hurry to you  
because of Yahveh your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
because he has honored you."*

**Is 55:1-5**

**6** *Look for Yahveh while you can find him;  
call on him while he's near.*

**7** *Sinners need to change the way they act;  
the unjust have to abandon selfish intentions.  
They must return to Yahveh  
so he'll have mercy on them,  
come back to their God  
because he'll generously pardon.*

**8** *"I don't think like you do;  
I don't do like you do," Yahveh says.*

**9** *"As high as the sky is above the earth,  
my ways are above your ways  
and my thoughts above your thoughts.*

**Is 55:6-9**

**10** *As rain and snow fall from the sky  
and don't go back there without watering the ground,  
making it sprout and produce,  
and providing seed to the sower and bread to the eater—*

**11** *so my message won't come back to me  
without accomplishing what I sent it to do.*

**12** *You'll go out with joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will break out in singing;  
the trees in the field will clap their hands.*

**13** *Cypress trees will come up in place of thorns;  
myrtles will grow instead of nettles;  
they'll be a memorial to Yahveh,  
an everlasting sign that won't be destroyed."*

**Is 55:10-13**

### Blessings for All Nations

**56:1** *Yahveh says,*

*“Maintain righteousness and be godly  
because my salvation’s coming;  
my deliverance will arrive.*

*2They are fortunate who do that,  
who hold onto it,  
who honor my Sabbath  
and don’t do anything sinful.*

*3Foreigners that join themselves to Yahveh shouldn’t say,  
‘He’ll surely make a difference between me and his people’;  
eunuchs shouldn’t say, ‘I’m a dead tree.’ ”*

*4Yahveh says,  
“For eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths holy,  
choose to do what pleases me,  
and keep my covenant—  
5I’ll erect a memorial inside my Temple walls  
and inscribe on it a name that’s better than heirs.      Is 56:1-5*

*6“Foreigners that join me  
to minister to me, love and serve me,  
observe my Sabbaths, and keep my covenant—*

*7I’ll bring to my holy mountain  
and make happy in my Temple for prayer;  
I’ll accept their sacrifices and burnt offerings on my altar;  
I’ll make my Temple a house for prayer for all nations.”*

*8The Lord Yahveh who brings back the dispersed from Israel, says,  
“Still others I’ll bring to those I’ve already gathered.”*

**Is 56:6-8**

### Sinful Leaders Condemned

*9All you wild animals in the field and forest,  
come and devour my people.*

*10The watchmen are blind;  
they don’t know what’s going on.  
They’re dogs that can’t bark,  
always lying around asleep, dreaming.*

*11They have huge appetites they can never satisfy;  
they’re shepherds that don’t know how to shepherd.  
They’ve all turned to their selfish interests,  
looking for personal profit.*

*12“Come on,” they say, “let’s get some wine  
and drink lots of alcohol;*

*tomorrow let's do it again—and more so."*      **Is 56:9-12**

**57:1** Good people perish and nobody notices;  
 the devout disappear without anyone realizing it,  
*because God removes good people out of harm's way.*  
**2** They who take the godly road  
 go to peace and rest in their graves.

### **Idolatrous Worship Condemned**

- 3** "But come here, you sons of sorcerers,  
*you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes.*
- 4** Who are you making fun of?  
*Who are you mouthing off to?*  
*Who are you sticking out your tongue at?*  
*Aren't you rebellious brats, lying cads*
- 5** that worship your idols with lust among the terebinths  
*under every green tree,*  
*that slaughter your children in the wadis*  
*on the jagged rocks beneath the cliffs?*      **Is 57:1-5**
- 6** Your destiny is among those smooth-stone fertility symbols  
*that you worship in those wadis; they're your fate;*  
*you pour out liquid offerings to them*  
*and make grain offerings;*  
*am I supposed to be appeased by stuff like that?*
- 7** You've committed adultery on every high mountain  
*and gone up there to offer sacrifice to your idols.*
- 8** You've put pagan symbols on the back of your doors  
*and on your doorposts;*  
*you've deserted me and uncovered yourself*  
*to your temple prostitutes;*  
*you've loved their bed*  
*and looked at their nakedness.*      **Is 57:6-8**
- 9** You've gone to Molech with olive oil  
*and lots of perfume;*  
*you've sent your messengers far and wide,*  
*even to Sheol.*
- 10** You've worn yourselves out by your long search,  
*but you didn't give up;*  
*you found renewed strength and didn't faint.*      **Is 57:9-10**

**11** “Who were you worried about and fearful of  
when you lied and didn’t think about me?  
**12** I’ll tell everybody about your so-called good deeds,  
but they won’t do you any good.  
**13** When you appealed for help,  
did your collection of idols deliver you?  
A gust of wind can pick them up;  
a breath can blow them over.  
But whoever takes refuge in me will inherit the land  
and possess my holy mountain.”

Is 57:11-13

### Comfort for the Contrite

**14** God says,  
“Fix the road; rebuild it;  
get rid of every obstacle to my people.”  
**15** This is what the high and lofty One says  
that lives forever, whose name is Holy:  
“I live in a high and holy place  
to revive the courage of the humble  
and the heart of the repentant.  
**16** I won’t oppose you forever or always be angry;  
the spirit and breath of the ones I’ve created  
would lose spirit and give up.  
**17** I was angry and struck them  
for their sinful, unjust gain;  
I hid from them and was angry,  
and they went on turning away in heart.

Is 57:14-17

**18** I’ve seen their ways, but I’ll heal them anyway;  
I’ll lead them, comfort their mourners,  
**19** and create praise from them.  
Peace to the near and far;  
I’ll heal them,” Yahweh says.

**20** “But sinful people are like a tossing sea;  
it can’t relax;  
it stirs up debris and mud.

**21** There’s no peace for them,” my God says.

Is 57:18-21

### False and True Worship

**58:1** “Shout; don’t hold back;

raise your voice like a ram’s horn;  
tell my people their transgressions.

**2** They look to me daily and seem to delight to know my ways,  
as if they’re a good nation that hasn’t left my ordinances;  
they ask for favorable verdicts  
and act like they delight in drawing near to me.

**3** Then they wonder, ‘Why have we fasted, and you haven’t noticed?  
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you haven’t acknowledged it?’  
It’s because you fast to get what you want  
(meanwhile overworking your workers)! **Is 58:1-3**

**4** You fast only to win disputes and fist fights—  
not to be heard on high.

**5** Is that the kind of fast I had in mind for humbling yourselves?  
Isn’t that just going through the motions of bowing your head like a reed  
and spreading out burlap and ashes under you?  
Do you call that penance, a fast that’s acceptable to Yahveh?

**6** Isn’t this the kind of fast I had in mind:  
loosening the bonds of people you falsely imprisoned,  
undoing the straps of their yoke,  
freeing the oppressed,  
and breaking every tie that binds people? **Is 58:4-6**

**7** Isn’t it sharing your food with the hungry,  
bringing the homeless into your house,  
dressing the naked when you see them,  
not hiding from relatives that need you?

**8** Then your light will break forth like the dawn;  
your wounds will heal quickly.  
Your good reputation will precede you;  
the glory of Yahveh will have your back.

**9** You’ll call and he’ll answer;  
you’ll appeal to him, and he’ll say, ‘I’m here.’  
If you remove oppression from among you,  
the finger pointing and vicious gossip,  
if you feed the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the suffering—

**10** then you’ll be a light shining in the dark;  
the gloom around you will turn to noonday light. **Is 58:7-10**

**11** *Yahveh will always guide you,  
quench your thirst,  
and restore your strength;  
he'll make you like an irrigated garden,  
like a year-round spring.*

**12** *Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
on foundations from long ago;  
you'll repair the breaches in the walls  
and fix the streets you live on.*

**Is 58:11-12**

**13** *"If you turn around from the direction you're headed,  
stop doing just whatever you please on my holy day,  
consider the Sabbath a delight,  
honor Yahveh's day by what you do that day,  
step aside from your own pursuits  
and seeking your own pleasure and talking idly—*

**14** *then you'll be delighting in Yahveh.*

*He'll give you honor on the earth  
and satisfy you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob."*

Yahveh has spoken.

**Is 58:13-14**

### Warnings Against Sin

**59:1** It's not that Yahveh's hand is not too weak to save  
or his ear too deaf to hear you call.

**2** It's your iniquities that have separated you from him;  
your sins have shut him off from you,  
so he ignores you.

**3** You've defiled your hands with blood,  
your fingers with sin,  
your lips with lying,  
your tongues with gossip.

**4** None of you brings just suits or argues *cases* honestly;  
you hide behind double talk and perjury;  
you conceive schemes and give birth to sin.

**Is 59:1-4**

**5** You hatch viper eggs and weave spider webs;  
whoever eats the eggs dies;  
snakes hatch from the cracked eggs.

**6** Your webs can't become clothes;  
you can't dress yourselves with what you've made.  
Your deeds are sinful;

you use your hands for violence.

<sup>7</sup>You hurry to do harm,  
run to shed blood,  
and think sinful things;  
destruction lies scattered along your highways.

<sup>8</sup>You don't know any road that leads to peace;  
you give the wrong directions;  
whoever follows them gets lost.

**Is 59:5-8**

<sup>9</sup>So justice is a long way off *from you*;  
right living doesn't help you.  
You hope for light, but it's dark here;  
you look for sunny days but live in gloom.

<sup>10</sup>You grope along the wall like the blind  
and fumble around like people without eyes;  
you stumble around as much at noon as you do at dusk,  
like the dead among the living.

<sup>11</sup>You growl like bears and moan like pigeons;  
you look for justice, but it doesn't come;  
you want salvation, but it's a distant prospect.

**Is 59:9-11**

<sup>12</sup>You've multiplied your sins right in *God's* face;  
they testify against you.  
You know you're sinful;  
<sup>13</sup>you transgress and deny Yahveh  
and turn your backs on him.  
You advocate oppression and rebellion,  
conceive and tell lies from the heart.

<sup>14</sup>The courts oppose justice;  
it's nowhere near;  
truth stumbles in the streets;  
honesty is illegal.

<sup>15a</sup>There is no truth;  
those who turn from sin become victims.

**Is 59:12-15a**

<sup>15b-16</sup>Yahveh was amazed;  
it displeased him that there was no justice.  
Nobody was intervening to help the oppressed;  
so he brought about salvation himself  
and sustained it with his goodness.

<sup>17</sup>He put on goodness like a breastplate,  
     and a helmet of salvation on his head;  
     he dressed himself in vengeance  
         and wrapped himself with zeal like a mantle.

<sup>18</sup>He'll repay his adversaries according to their deeds,  
     recompense his enemies with his anger,  
     and carry out retribution to the ends of the earth.

<sup>19</sup>So they'll fear Yahveh in the west  
     and honor him from the rising of the sun,  
     because he'll come like a rushing tide  
         that he drives with the wind.

<sup>20</sup>"A redeemer will come to Zion,  
     to those who turn from sin in Jacob," Yahveh says. **Is 59:15b-20**

<sup>21</sup>"This is my covenant with you:  
     my Spirit that's on you,  
     my message that's in you  
         won't leave you, your children,  
         or grandchildren from now on." **Is 59:21**

### Israel's Future Glory

<sup>60:1</sup>"Arise, shine; your light has come;  
     the glory of Yahveh has risen on you.

<sup>2</sup>Darkness will cover the earth;  
     thick blackness will blanket the nations;  
     but Yahveh will shine on you;  
         his glory will appear on you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light,  
     kings to the brightness of your rising. **Is 60:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>"Look all around you;  
     they're all gathering home to you.

*Your little boys will come from a long way off;*  
*your girls will be carried in arms.*

<sup>5</sup>Then your eyes will be radiant;  
     you'll be thrilled and happy,  
     because commerce from the sea will return to you,  
         and the nations' wealth will be available to you.

<sup>6</sup>Caravans of camels will cover you,  
     young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
     The ones from Sheba will bring gold and frankincense,

*and good news about the praises of Yahveh.*

<sup>7</sup>*The flocks of Kedar will gather to you;  
the rams of Nebaioth will serve you.  
I'll accept them on my altar  
and honor my Temple.*

<sup>8</sup>*Who are these that fly like a cloud,  
like pigeons to their windows?*

**Is 60:4-8**

<sup>9</sup>*The distant lands will learn to trust in me;  
the ships from Tarshish will come first,  
bringing your descendants home from afar  
and their silver and gold with them  
for Yahveh your God,  
for the Holy One of Israel,  
because he's honored you.*

**Is 60:9**

<sup>10</sup>*"Foreigners will rebuild your walls;  
their kings will be your servants.  
Though I struck you in my anger,  
now I'll have mercy on you in my favor.*

<sup>11</sup>*Your gates will stay open day and night  
so nations can bring their wealth to you,  
and their kings can be led as captives  
in the victory procession.*

<sup>12</sup>*Nations that won't serve you will perish.*

<sup>13</sup>*The splendor of Lebanon will come on you,  
the juniper, box tree, and cypress tree together,  
to beautify the place for my feet in my sanctuary.*

<sup>14</sup>*The descendants of your oppressors will come bowing to you;  
your despisers will prostrate themselves at your feet.  
They'll call you The City of Yahveh,  
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*

**Is 60:10-14**

<sup>15</sup>*"Whereas you've been hated, shunned, and abandoned,  
I'll make you something to be proud of forever,  
a joy for endless generations.*

<sup>16</sup>*You'll nurse on the milk of nations, breasts of kings;  
you'll know that I'm Yahveh, your Savior,  
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.*

<sup>17</sup>*I'll bring gold for bronze,*

*bronze for wood,  
silver for iron,  
iron for stone.*

*I'll make peace your administrators  
and goodness your overseers.*

**Is 60:15-17**

**18** *Violence will disappear from your land,  
war from inside your borders;  
you'll call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.*

**19** *You won't need the sun for daylight  
or the moon to be bright.*

**You'll have Yahveh for an everlasting light;**  
*he'll be your glory.*

**20** *Your sun won't set anymore;  
your moon won't have phases.*

**You'll have Yahveh for an everlasting light;**  
*your mourning will be over.*

**21** *Your people will be good;  
they'll own their land forever,  
the branch I planted with my own hands will honor me.*

**22** *The smallest will become a clan;  
the least will be a nation.  
I, Yahveh, will hurry it along when the time comes.* "Is 60:18-22

### The Year of Yahveh's Favor

**61:1** The Spirit of the Lord Yahveh is on me;  
he's anointed me to bring good news to the downtrodden.

He's sent me to bandage up the brokenhearted,  
to liberate captives,  
to free prisoners,

<sup>2</sup>to announce that this is

the year Yahveh shows blessing,  
the day he sets things right,  
to comfort anyone that's grieving,  
<sup>3</sup>to give to the sad in Zion  
a crown in place of ashes,  
the oil of happiness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise rather than a fainting spirit  
so they'll be like Terebinths of Goodness

Yahveh has planted to demonstrate his glory.      **Is 61:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>Then they'll rebuild the ancient ruins,  
 set back up what was torn down,  
 repair destroyed towns deserted for generations.  
<sup>5</sup>Foreigners will pasture your flocks,  
 do your farming, and tend your vineyards.  
<sup>6</sup>But you'll be Yahveh's priests;  
 people will speak of you as his ministers.  
 You'll feed on the wealth of nations  
 and take pride in their prosperity.  
<sup>7</sup>Instead of humiliation you'll have a double portion;  
 rather than dishonor you'll celebrate over your lot.  
 You'll have everlasting joy in your land.

<sup>8</sup>"I, Yahveh, love justice  
 and despise short-changing in burnt offering;  
 I'll make an everlasting contract with you  
 and faithfully pay you for your work.

<sup>9</sup>Then the nations will honor your offspring worldwide;  
 everyone will recognize you as the offspring Yahveh blessed."

Is 61:4-9

<sup>10</sup>I'm really happy in Yahveh;  
 I celebrate over my God  
 because he's dressed me in salvation  
 and wrapped me in goodness like a robe,  
 like a groom dresses himself in a garland,  
 and a bride adorns herself with jewels.

<sup>11</sup>As the ground produces seeds  
 and a garden makes sprouts grow,  
 so the Lord Yahveh makes goodness and praise  
 spring up for all the world to see.

Is 61:10-11

### Isaiah's Prayer for Jerusalem

**62:1**For Zion's sake I'll speak to God;  
 for Jerusalem's sake I won't keep still,  
 until your goodness glows brightly,  
 and your salvation radiates like a burning torch;  
<sup>2</sup>so the nations can witness your goodness  
 and kings *can gaze at* your glory.

Yahveh himself will give you a new name.

<sup>3</sup>You'll be a beautiful crown in his hand,  
a royal diadem he holds up high.

<sup>4</sup>You won't be called Abandoned [*Azubah*] anymore  
or your land be named Desolate [*Shemamah*];  
you'll be My Delight Is in It [*Hephzibah*],  
and your land will be Married [*Beulah*],  
because he delights in you,  
and your land will be married *to him*.

<sup>5</sup>Like a young man marries a virgin,  
your sons will marry you, *Jerusalem*;  
like a groom is happy over a bride,  
your God will be happy over you.

**Is 62:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>I've stationed watchmen on your walls, *Jerusalem*,  
not to be silent day or night,  
but to remember you to Yahveh

<sup>7</sup>till he makes you something worth praising in the world.

<sup>8</sup>He has sworn by his right hand and strong arm,

*"I'll never again let your enemies eat your grain  
or foreigners drink the new wine you labored for."*

<sup>9</sup>*But the ones that put the grain in the granary  
will eat it and praise me;  
the ones that pick the grapes  
will drink the wine in the courts of my sanctuary."* **Is 62:6-9**

<sup>10</sup>Go out through the gates;  
clear the way for my people.  
Build a highway so they can return;  
get the *loose* rocks off the road.  
Hoist a flag the nations *can see*.

<sup>11</sup>Yahveh has declared all over the world,  
*"Tell Zion its salvation's coming;  
he's bringing his reward with him."*

<sup>12</sup>They'll call you The Holy People [*Ha'am Haggadosh*],  
Yahveh's Redeemed [*Ge'ule-adonai*],  
The Sought For, A City No Longer Forsaken.

**Is 62:10-12**

## Vengeance Against Israel's Enemies

**63:1** Who is this that's coming from Edom  
 in crimson clothes from Bozrah,  
 one majestic in attire  
 and marching with such power?  
*"The One that's announcing vindication,  
 that has the strength to save."*

**2** Why are your clothes stained red  
 like those who tread out grapes?

**3** "I need, I've been treading in a winepress—alone;  
*nobody from the nations could help me;*  
*so I tramped down my foes in my fury;*  
*their life blood spattered my garments*  
*and stained my clothes.*

**4** "I've had a day for payback on my mind;  
 a year for redemption to come.

**5** But I looked, amazed  
*that there was no one to intervene for the oppressed;*  
*so my own arm did the saving;*  
*anger sustained me.*

**6** "I tramped down nations in my fury  
 and made them drunk in my wrath;  
 I poured out their blood on the ground."

Is 63:1-6

### Praise for Deliverance

**7** I'll recount the praises and tell about Yahveh's enduring love  
 in proportion to everything he has granted us;  
*I'll declare the great goodness he has shown*  
 in proportion to his mercy and kindness toward Israel.

**8** He said, "*They're my people,*  
*offspring that surely won't betray me again;*  
 so he saved them.

**9** In all their adversity he felt their suffering;  
 so he sent the angel from his presence to save them.  
 In his love and mercy, he redeemed them;  
 he picked them up and carried them  
 like he'd done in the past.

**10** But they did rebel and grieve his Holy Spirit;  
 so he became their enemy and opposed them.

Is 63:7-10

<sup>11</sup>Then his people remembered the past at Moses' time.

*“Where’s the One that brought them up from the sea  
with the shepherds of his flock?*

*Where is the One that put his Holy Spirit among them,*

<sup>12</sup>that showed his power when Moses raised his right hand,

*that divided the water for them to make an eternal name for himself,*

**13**that led them through the deep sea?

*Like a horse in open country, they didn't stumble;*

<sup>14</sup>like livestock that goes down to a sheltered valley,

*the Spirit of Yahveh gave them rest;*

*that's the way he led his people*

*to make a glorious name for himself."*

Is 63:11-14

## **Prayer for Pardon**

<sup>15</sup>Look down from heaven,  
from your holy house;  
where are your zeal and powerful love?  
I don't sense the mercy  
you used to have toward us.

<sup>16</sup>Even if Abraham would disown us  
and Israel wouldn't recognize us,  
you'd still be our Father and Redeemer.

<sup>17</sup>Yahveh, why let us stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against you?  
For our sake, bring us back as your special possession.

<sup>18</sup>Your holy people had your sanctuary for a while,  
    *but our adversaries have tramped it down.*

<sup>19</sup>We've become like a nation you never ruled,  
like people that never wore your name.

Is 63:15-19

**64<sup>1</sup>** Oh that you'd open the sky and come down  
and the mountains would quake in your presence—

<sup>2</sup>like a flame that burns brush and boils water—

to show yourself to your adversaries  
so they'd tremble in your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things we didn't expect,  
you came down and **the mountains quaked in your presence.**

<sup>4</sup>No one has ever heard of a God like you

that acts on behalf of people that wait for him.

**5**You visit those who enjoy doing good,  
    who remember you and your ways.  
You were angry because we kept sinning for a long time;  
    can we ever be saved?

**6**We've all become unclean;  
    our best efforts are like menstrual rags.  
We wither like leaves;  
    our sins blow us away like the wind.

**7**No one calls on you or reaches out to you  
    because you've hid from us  
        and delivered us to the consequences of our sins. **Is 64:1-7**

**8**But now, Yahveh, you're our Father;  
    we're the clay, you're the potter;  
    you've made us.

**9**Don't be angry beyond measure;  
    don't hold our sin against us forever;  
    look now, we're all your people.

**10**Your holy cities have become a desert;  
    Zion is a wasteland;  
    Jerusalem is desolate.

**11**Our holy, beautiful Temple,  
    where our ancestors praised you,  
    has been burned;  
    all our precious things lie in ruins.

**12**Will you limit yourself to this much retribution,  
    or will you keep disciplining us no end? **Is 64:8-12**

### Judgment and Final Salvation

**65:1**“I let people look for me who weren't asking about me;  
    people that weren't looking for me found me.  
I said, ‘I'm here! Over here!’  
    to people that didn't call on me.

**2**All day long I spread out my hands to a rebellious nation  
    that follows its own ideas,

**3**that continually angers me to my face  
    by offering sacrifices to idols in sacred gardens

and burning incense on pagan altars,  
 4that sit in tombs and spend the night in secret places,  
 that eat pig meat  
 and have broth from unclean meat in their pots,  
 5that say, ‘Stay away from me;  
 don’t touch me;  
 I’m holier than you are!’  
*They’re smoke in my nose, a fire that burns all day.*      **Is 65:1-5**  
 6I’ve written it out in front of me:  
*I won’t stand idly by; I’ll repay.  
 I’ll pay back into their laps*  
 7the sins they and their ancestors committed;  
 since they’ve burned incense on the mountains  
 and scorned me on the hills,  
*I’ll measure out their former deeds into their arms,”*  
 Yahveh says.

8“*As new wine comes from clusters  
 and somebody says,  
 ‘Don’t ruin it; it’s useful’;  
 that’s what I’ll do with my servants  
 and not destroy them all.*

9*I’ll preserve a remnant from Jacob and Judah  
 to inherit my mountains;  
 my chosen ones will inherit it;  
 my servants will live there.*      **Is 65:6-9**

10*Sharon will be a pasture for flocks;  
 the Valley of Achor will be a resting place for herds—  
 for my people that look to me.*

11-12*But I’ll destine for the sword  
 you that leave me,  
 that forget my holy mountain,  
 that set a table for Fortune  
 and fill cups with mixed wine for Destiny.  
 You’ll bow down to slaughter,  
 because I called, but you didn’t answer;  
 I spoke, but you ignored me;  
 you did what I consider sinful;  
 you chose what I don’t delight in.”*      **Is 65:10-12**

**13**So the Lord Yahveh says,

“My servants will eat, but you’ll be hungry;  
 my servants will drink, but you’ll be thirsty;  
 my servants will celebrate, but you’ll be humiliated;  
**14**my servants will make a joyful sound with a happy heart,  
 but you’ll cry with a heavy heart  
 and wail with a broken spirit.

**15**The name you leave behind will be a curse to my chosen ones,

and the Lord Yahveh will slay you;

but I’ll call my servants another name

**16**because those who bless themselves on earth  
 will bless themselves by the true God;  
 the ones that take an oath in the land  
 will swear by the true God;  
 because I’ll forget the former troubles  
 and hide them from me.

**Is 65:13-16**

### New Earth and Sky

**17**“I’m creating a new earth and sky;  
 people won’t think about previous things anymore.

**18**Be happy and celebrate forever in what I create,  
 because I’ll create Jerusalem for celebrating  
 and its people for happiness.

**19**I’ll celebrate over Jerusalem  
 and be happy with my people;  
 they won’t hear weeping and crying anymore.

**20**No longer will babies live just a few days,  
 or adults die young;  
 they’ll die when they’re 100;  
 anybody that dies young will be considered cursed.

**21**They’ll build houses and live in them,  
 plant vineyards and eat their fruit. **Is 65:17-21**

**22**They won’t build and someone else occupy them;  
 they won’t plant and somebody else eat the fruit.  
 The lifetime of my people will be like the lifetime of a tree;  
 my chosen ones will enjoy what they make.

**23**They won’t work to no end  
 or have children that face catastrophes;

*they'll be the offspring of people Yahveh has blessed—  
their descendants as well.*

<sup>24</sup>Before they call, I'll answer;  
while they're speaking, I'll listen.

<sup>25</sup>Wolf and lamb will graze together;  
a lion will eat straw like an ox,  
but snakes will eat dust.  
They won't hurt anything in all my holy mountain,"  
Yahweh says.                                   Is 65:22-25

## Judgment and Hope

**66:1** Yahveh says,  
*“Heaven is my throne; earth is my footstool  
where are you going to build me a Temple?”*

<sup>2</sup>I made all this:

*I made all this,  
that's why it's here.  
But the ones I especially love  
are humble with a repentant spirit  
and respect what I say.*

Is 66:1-2

<sup>3</sup> “But for the ones who’ve chosen their own way  
and delight in detestable things,  
offering an ox will be like human sacrifice,  
sacrificing a lamb will be like breaking a dog’s neck,  
offering a grain offering will be like offering pig’s blood,  
burning incense will be like blessing an idol.

<sup>4</sup>*I'll carry out their punishments*

*and bring on them what they dread;  
because I called, but nobody answered;  
I spoke, but they ignored me.*

*They did what I consider sinful  
and chose what I don't delight in.*

Is 66:3-4

<sup>5</sup>Listen to this message from Yahveh,  
you that respect what he says,

*'Your brothers that hate you and exclude you  
because you're loyal to me, have scoffed,  
Honor Yahveh so we can see how happy he makes you!'  
But they're the ones that will be humiliated.*

**6** *The uproar in the city and the Temple  
is Yahveh paying back his enemies.*

**Is 66:5-6**

**7** *"Before she travailed, she brought forth;  
before her pain came, she had a boy.*

**8** *Who ever heard of such a thing?*

*Who has seen anything like that?  
Can a country be born in a day?  
Can a nation be brought forth all at once?  
But as soon as Zion's travail began,  
she brought forth her children.*

**9** *Would I bring to term and not deliver?*

*Would I that give delivery shut the womb?*

**10** *Be joyful over Jerusalem, you that love her;*

*be happy with her, you that mourn for her;*

**11** *so you can be satisfied by her consoling breasts,*

*nurse and be delighted by her bountiful bosom."* **Is 66:7-11**

**12** This is what Yahveh says,

*"I extend peace to her like a river,  
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.*

*She'll nurse you and carry you on her hip,  
and play with you on her lap.*

**13** *I'll comfort you like a mother does;*

*I'll comfort you in Jerusalem."*

**14** When you experience it, you'll be happy;

*you'll flourish like new grass.*

*Yahveh's servants will realize what he's doing;*

*his enemies will experience his indignation.* **Is 66:12-14**

**15** He will come in fire;

*his chariots will rush in like a windstorm*

*to render his anger with fury,*

*to rebuke with flames.*

**16** He'll condemn by fire and sword;

*the number he slays will be countless.* **Is 66:15-16**

**17** *"Those who 'sanctify and purify' themselves to enter sacred gardens  
with idols in the center, that eat pig meat and disgusting things like mice, will all*

*come to their end at the same time.* **18***I know what they're thinking; I can see what they're doing. The time's coming to gather all nations to see my glory.* **19***I'll perform a sign among them and send survivors out from them to the nations—to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Rosh, Tubal, Javan, and distant lands that have never heard of me.* **20***From all the countries they'll bring me your people as a grain offering. On horses, mules, and camels; in chariots and litter wagons they'll bring them to my holy mountain Jerusalem,*"

Yahveh says.

**Is 66:17-20**

**21** "*I'll make some of them priests and Levites.*"

**22** *As surely as the new earth and sky will last,  
your descendants and name will endure.*

**23-24** *Every new moon and Sabbath,  
all humanity will come to bow to me.*

*When they leave, they'll see the corpses of those  
who've rebelled against me.*

*The maggots won't die;  
the fire won't go out.*

*They'll be repulsive to everybody that sees them,"*

Yahveh says.

**Is 66:21-24**

Version by Virgil Warren: christir.org