

ISAIAH

Conversational Version

1:1 Visions Isaiah Son of 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, the LORD 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 the LORD,
 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.

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

⁹If the LORD of Hosts hadn't left us a few survivors,
 we'd be like Sodom and Gomorrah. Is 1:5-9

¹⁰Listen to the LORD's message, rulers in "Sodom";
 hear our God's teaching, people in "Gomorrah":

¹¹"*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.

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

¹³*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.

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

¹⁵*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

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

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

¹⁸"*Come, now; let's talk,"* the LORD 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."*

The LORD has told you the truth.
Is 1:16-20

Unfaithful Jerusalem

21How the once-faithful city has become a prostitute,
she that used to be full of justice!
Goodness used to lodge there;
now murderers do.

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

23Your 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

24So the Lord GOD 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

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

28But the LORD will crush rebels and sinners;
those who forsake him will meet their end.

29You'll be ashamed of the sacred terebinth groves you delighted in,
embarrassed by the gardens you chose *to worship your idols in;*
30because you'll be like a terebinth tree with withered leaves
and a garden with no water.

31The 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**

The LORD's Future Reign

2:1 A Message Isaiah Son of Amoz Saw About Judah and Jerusalem

2 In the last days, the mountain where the LORD'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 the LORD'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,
the LORD'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 the LORD.

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.

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

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

Is 2:9-11

12The LORD 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,

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

14for high mountains and lofty hills,

15for every high tower and fortified wall,

16for the ships of Tarshish and their beautiful crafts.

17The LORD will humble the haughty
and abase the arrogant;
he alone will be honored then;
18idols will disappear.

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

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

21they will hide in the caves in the rocks

and clefts in the cliffs

in anticipation of the terror the LORD's bringing
and the splendor of his majesty
when he takes action that makes the ground quake.

22Stop trusting in people who breathe;
why depend on them?

Is 2:12-22

Judgment Against Judah

3:1The Lord GOD of Hosts will remove

food and water from Judah and Jerusalem,
 2 strong men and soldiers, judges and prophets,
 fortunetellers and elders,
 3 captains of 50 and their men,
 advisors, expert magicians, and skilled astrologers.
 4 “I’ll make boys their officials,
 babies their rulers;
 5 people will oppress one another,
 neighbor against neighbor;
 youths will insult elders;
 inferiors will be rude to honorable citizens.” **Is 3:1-5**

6 At that time, a man will grab his brother and say,
 “You have a cloak; be our leader;
 rule this pile of ruins!”
 7 But he’ll protest,
 “I won’t lead you;
 I don’t have a cloak or extra food at home;
 don’t expect me to be your leader.”

8 Jerusalem will stumble, Judah will fall,
 because their words and deeds oppose the LORD;
 they’ve rebelled against his glorious presence.
 9 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.

10 Tell good people it’ll go well with them;
 they’ll eat what their efforts produce.

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

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

13 The LORD 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;
15what do you mean crushing my people,
grinding their faces in the dirt?”*

the Lord GOD 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,
17I’ll strike their scalps with scabs
and shave off their eyebrows.*

Is 3:16-17

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

*24Instead 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.*

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

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

Is 3:18-26

The LORD’s Branch

*4:1At 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!”*

*2But at that time, the LORD’s branch will be beautiful and glorious. What the ground
produces will be the pride and joy of Israel’s survivors. 3The remnant in Zion and Jerusalem will
be holy, everybody that’s in his record books for living there. 4When the LORD has washed the
grime off of Zion’s inhabitants and cleaned up the bloodstains in Jerusalem by the spirit of
judgment and burning, 5then 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. 6It’ll be shade from
daytime heat and shelter from storms and rain.*

Is 4:1-6

The Song of the Vineyard

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

The one I love had a vineyard on a fertile hill.
2He 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

3“*People in Judah and Jerusalem,
 judge between me and my vineyard.*
4*What could I have done for it that I didn’t do?
 Why did it produce bitter grapes instead of sweet ones?*
5*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.*
6*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

7*Israel is the LORD’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

8Misfortune awaits you that buy up houses and fields
 till there’s none left to buy,
 and you’re living alone.
9I’ve heard the LORD of Hosts swear,
 “*Lots of houses will be empty, even big, nice ones;*
10*ten acres of vineyard will only produce 9 gallons ^{1 bath} of wine;*
 11 bushels ^{1 homer} of seed will only yield 1.1 bushels ^{1 ephah} of grain.”
11Misfortune awaits those who get up early to drink alcohol

and stay up late to get drunk on wine.

¹²Their banquets feature lyres and harps,
tambourines and flutes—and wine;
but they give no thought to the LORD
or pay attention to what he's doing. Is 5:7-12

¹³So my people will go into exile for ignoring me;
their honored ones will starve;
their common people will be parched with thirst.

¹⁴Sheol will increase its appetite and eat its fill;
Jerusalem's nobles and celebrating throngs will go down to it.

¹⁵Commoners will be humbled,
important people abased,
proud ones brought low.

¹⁶But the LORD of Hosts will be exalted by *his* judgments;
the holy God will display his holiness by *his* goodness.

¹⁷Then lambs will graze in their pasture;
foreigners will eat among the ruins of the wealthy.

Is 5:13-17

¹⁸Misfortune awaits those who pull iniquity
behind them with ropes made out of lies,
who harness falsehood

and hook up their carts to sin,

¹⁹who 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!"

²⁰Misfortune 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.

²¹Misfortune's in store for people that think they're smart,
that consider themselves clever.

²²Misfortune comes on winners at wine drinking
and champions at mixing drinks,
²³who acquit the guilty for a bribe
and deprive the innocent of justice. Is 5:18-23

²⁴So, 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 the LORD's Law
 and despised the message of the Holy One of Israel;
²⁵so 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

²⁶He'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.

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

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

²⁹It 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.

³⁰It 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. ²Seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings: two covered their faces, two covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³One shouted to the other,

*"Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of Hosts;
 the whole world is full of his glory."*

⁴The thresholds shook when he shouted, and smoke filled the Temple. ⁵I said,
*"I'm doomed! I'm lost,
 a man with unclean lips
 living among people with unclean lips,*

and I've seen the King, the LORD of Hosts!"

Is 6:1-5

6One 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.*"

8Then I heard the Lord say, "*Who will I send? Who'll go for us?*"

I said, "*I'll go; send me.*"

9He 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

11I 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

7:1At the time of Ahaz son of Jotham son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah son of 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.

3The LORD 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

10The LORD spoke to Ahaz again, **11**"Ask me for a sign that's as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven."

12But Ahaz said, "I'm not going to do that."

13So Isaiah said,

*"Listen, David's dynasty! Is trying people's patience not enough that you try God's patience too? **14**So the LORD will give you^{pl} 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**The LORD 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**The LORD 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.

22Nevertheless, 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 ^{1,000 shekels} 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

8:1Then the LORD 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 son of Jeberechiah. **3**So I had relations with my wife the prophetess, and she had a son. The LORD 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."*

5The LORD 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 The LORD 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 the LORD 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, and shatter. They’ll be caught in a snare.”

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

20 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. **21** 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 **22** 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.

³You'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.

⁴You'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

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

⁶A 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.

⁷His 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 the LORD of Hosts will make it happen. **Is 9:5-7**

God's Anger at Israel

⁸The LORD is issuing a message against Jacob,
a message of condemnation that falls on Israel.

⁹Everyone in Ephraim will find out,
those who live in Samaria
who say with such arrogance,

¹⁰“*The fallen bricks in our ruins*
we'll replace with dressed stones;
sycamores that have been cut down
we'll replant with cedars.”

¹¹But the LORD will bring adversaries from Rezin
and spur them on.

¹²Syrians 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

13 Yet the people still won't come back
to the One that disciplined them
or look to the LORD of Hosts.

14 So he'll cut off head and tail from Israel,
palm branch and reed the same day.

15 The head is the elders and honored men;
the tail is the false prophets.

16 The people's guides are misguiding them;
they're guiding them toward destruction.

17 That's why the LORD 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

18 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*

19 The fury of the LORD of Hosts will burn through the land;
its people will be the fuel for the fire;
nobody will spare his own brother.

20 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!

21 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,

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

³What 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?
⁴There'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

⁵"Misfortune awaits Assyria,
the club my anger is using,
the staff I've loaded with my indignation.
⁶*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.
⁷*But that's not Assyria's intention.*
It simply intends to destroy
one nation after another.
⁸*It will say, 'My princes will all be kings?'*
⁹*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

¹²So 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 GOD 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

Hope for the Remnant

20 *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 the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, **21-22**the Mighty God. **22**Then, even though Israel was as numerous as sand by the sea, only a remnant will return. **23**The Lord GOD will carry out the total destruction he’s decreed.*

24 *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. **25**In a little while, my anger at you will be spent, and I’ll redirect it at Assyria. **26**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. **27**Then I’ll lift the Assyrian burden off your shoulders and break its yoke from off your neck.”*

Is 10:20-27

28 *The Assyrians have passed through Migron,*

attacked Aiath,

and set up base camp at Michmash.

29 They've gone over the pass
 and are camping at Geba;
 Ramah has panicked,
 and Gibeah of Saul has fled.
 30 Cry out in terror, people in Gallim!
 Warn Laishah and poor Anathoth!
 31 Madmenah has fled;
 the residents of Gebim are searching for refuge.
 32 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

33 The Lord GOD of Hosts will lop off limbs with a terrible crash
 and cut down Lebanon's tall, lofty *trees*.
 34 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.
 2 The LORD's spirit will rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and insight,
 counsel and strength,
 knowledge and respect for the LORD.
 3 He'll delight in respecting the LORD;
 he won't judge by appearances
 or render verdicts based on hearsay.
 4 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.
 5 Faithfulness will be his cloak;
 goodness will be his belt.

Is 11:1-5

6 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.

⁷Cows will graze beside bears;
 their young will bed down together;
 lions will eat straw like oxen.
⁸A nursing baby will play by a cobra pit;
 a weaned child will put his hand in a viper's hole.
⁹Nothing will do harm anywhere on my holy mountain,
 because the land will be full of knowledge of the LORD
 like the ocean is full of water.

Is 11:6-9

¹⁰At 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. ¹¹For 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. ¹²He'll hoist a flag for the nations and repatriate the exiles of Israel and Judah from every direction. ¹³Ephraim and Judah won't resent each other or harass one another. ¹⁴They'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. ¹⁵The LORD 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. ¹⁶There'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

12:1At that time, you'll say,
 "Thank you, LORD;
 though you were angry with me,
 you turned your anger away
 and reassured me.
²You're my salvation;
 I'll trust you and not be afraid,
 because you're my strength and song."
³So I'll draw water with joy
 from the wells of salvation
⁴and say,
 "Thank the LORD, call on him;
 tell everyone what he's done;
 tell them his name is Honored.
⁵Sing praises to him
 because he's done excellent things;
 tell it all over the world.
⁶Sing 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 Son of 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!

The LORD 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.

6 Cry out, because the day of the LORD has come, destruction from the Almighty.

7 Everybody’s hands will fall limp; everyone’s heart will melt.

8 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

9 The day of the LORD is coming—cruel, with fury and burning anger—to desolate the land and destroy its sinners.

10 The stars and constellations won’t glimmer; the sun will be dark at dawn, and the moon won’t shine.

11 “That’s how I’ll punish the world for its sin, put an end to its arrogance, and humble the pride of ruthless people.

12 I’ll make people rarer than gold, rarer than gold from Ophir.

13 I’ll make the sky shake and the earth quake

at my fury when my burning anger comes.”

Is 13:9-13

14Like 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.

15Anybody that’s found will be thrust through;
anybody that’s captured will fall by the sword.

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

17“*I’m going to stir up the Medes against them,
who don’t care about silver or delight in gold.*

18*Their bows will slaughter the young men;
they won’t show mercy to babies
or pity children.”*

Is 13:14-18

19Babylon—the glory of the kingdoms, the Babylonians’ pride—
will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.

20Nobody will ever live there;
no nomad will pitch his tent inside it;
no shepherd will bed down his flock in it.

21Desert animals will rest there;
howling creatures will shelter in its *abandoned* houses;
owls will nest in it;
shaggy goats will frolic there.

22Hyenas 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

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

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

5*The LORD has broken the staff of the corrupt,*

the scepter of rulers

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

*7The whole region is resting and quiet now;
the people are breaking out into shouts of joy.*

*8The 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

*9Sheol below you is excited to welcome you;
the spirits of dead leaders rouse to see you;
the nations' kings rise from their thrones.*

*10They welcome you and say,
'You've become as weak as we are;
you're like us now.'*

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

Is 14:9-11

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

*13You 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;*

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

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

Is 14:12-15

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

*17that 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** The LORD 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** The LORD 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** The LORD 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?

*"The LORD 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.

2 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.

3 They'll put on burlap
in the streets and squares and on the housetops.
Everyone will be wailing, melting in tears.

4 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**

5 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.

6 The water at Nimrim has dried up;
the tender grass has withered;
there's nothing green anywhere.

7 The abundance they stored up
is being carried away across Wadi Arabim.

⁸Their distress cry has gone all over Moab;
 their wail as far as Eglaim and Beer-elim.
⁹The 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

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

Is 16:1-2

³"*Give us advice, grant us justice;*
cast your shadow on us like night at noon
to hide us outcasts; don't betray us fugitives.
⁴*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;
⁵he 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

⁶We've heard about Moab's excessive pride,
 its arrogance and fury;
 its idle boasts have proved to be false.

⁷So everyone in Moab will moan
 for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth
 like people completely stricken.

⁸The 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

⁹So 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.

¹⁰Happiness 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.

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

¹²When 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

¹³The LORD spoke that message earlier about Moab. ¹⁴Now 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

17:1Oracle About Damascus

*"Damascus will stop being a city
 and become a pile of ruins.*

²*The villages around Aroer will be deserted;
 flocks will bed down in them
 with no one to chase them away.*

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

the LORD of Hosts says. **Is 17:1-3**

⁴*"At that time, Jacob's glory will fade;
 its robust body will grow frail.*

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

⁶*Yet 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,"*

the LORD 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 that can save you,
the Rock where you could hide.

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

¹¹though you make them sprout the day you plant them,
put a ledge 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

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

¹³The 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.

¹⁴In 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

18:1Ah, land of fluttering wings,
land beyond the headwaters of the Nile in Nubia,
²that 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.

³All of you that live in the world,
look when I raise the signal on the mountains,

listen when I blow the ram's horn,

⁴because the LORD 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."*

Is 18:1-4

⁵Before 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.

⁶Your 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.

⁷At 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

The LORD is riding a swift cloud to Egypt;

Egypt's idols tremble in his presence;

the Egyptians' hearts melt.

²*"I'll pit the Egyptians against one another,
brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor;
city against city, district against district.*

³*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.

⁴*I'll deliver them to a cruel master;*

a powerful king will rule them,"

the Lord GOD of Hosts says. Is 19:1-4

⁵The Nile will dry up;

- its riverbed will be parched and dry.
 6The canals *from the Nile* will get foul;
 the braiding streams in the delta will trickle and dry up;
 reeds and rushes will rot.
 7Bulrushes by the Nile and the sown fields beside it
 will dry up and disappear.
 8Fishermen will chant a dirge;
 the ones that cast lines in the Nile will mourn;
 those who spread nets on the water will lose heart.
 9The ones that manufacture linen from combed flax
 or weave white cloth will despair.
 10Business owners will go bankrupt;
 their hired laborers will grieve.

Is 19:5-10

- 11The 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?
 12Where are your wise men, *Pharaoh*?
 Let them understand, have them tell you
 what the LORD of Hosts has planned for Egypt.
 13The officials in Zoan are simply fools;
 the nobles in Memphis are deluded;
 the cornerstones of its tribes have misled the country.
 14The LORD has stirred up confusion in them,
 they've led Egypt astray in everything it's doing,
 like a drunk staggering in his vomit.
 15There's nothing helpless Egypt can do
 with its head or tail, palm branch or reed.

Is 19:11-15

- 16The Egyptians will be like women then, cringing with fear as the fist of the LORD of Hosts shakes over them. 17Judah will terrorize Egypt. They'll dread hearing Judah mentioned because the LORD has laid out his purpose against them.
 18At that time, five cities in Egypt will start speaking Hebrew and swear allegiance to the LORD of Hosts—Heliopolis for one. 19There'll be an altar to him in Egypt and a monument to him at its border, 20a sign and witness. When they call out to him against oppressors, he'll send them a champion to rescue them. 21That's how he'll make himself known to them. They'll even worship with sacrifice and offering, take vows to him and keep them. 22He'll strike Egypt, striking then

healing them, so they'll come back to him. ²³⁻²⁴A 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 the LORD'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

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

2I 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.

3My 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.

4My mind is reeling, the horror is overwhelming;

I longed for the twilight;
now I'm afraid of the dark.

5The 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

6Then the LORD 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.”*

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

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

¹⁰My threshed people, winnowed on the threshing floor!
 I’m reporting what I’ve heard
 from the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel.

Is 21:6-10

¹¹Oracle About Edom

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

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

Is 21:11-12

¹³Oracle About Arabia

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

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

¹⁶This is what the LORD told me,
“A year from now, as a hired hand’s contract would read, Kedar’s splendor will end. ¹⁷*Its surviving archers and strong men will be few;*
I, the LORD God of Israel, have spoken.”

Is 21:13-17

22:1Oracle About the Valley of Vision

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

²You noisy, exuberant city in an uproar,
your dead weren't slain in battle,
but by famine and disease.

³Your 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

⁴So I said, "*Leave me alone to weep bitterly;*
don't try to comfort me about the destruction of my people."

⁵The Lord GOD 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.

⁶Elam will take up the quiver
with chariots, infantry, and cavalry;
Kir will uncover the shield.

⁷Chariots will fill your beautiful valleys;
cavalry will storm the gates.

⁸*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

⁹when you see how many breaches were in the wall of David's city;
you store up water from the lower pool;
¹⁰you tear down some of the houses to get materials to fortify the wall;
¹¹you 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.

¹²The Lord GOD of Hosts had called for you to weep, wail, shave *your* head, and put on burlap. ¹³Instead, you've celebrated with revelry, butchering cattle and sheep, eating meat and drinking wine: "*Let's eat and drink; tomorrow we die.*" ¹⁴The LORD 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

¹⁵The Lord GOD of Hosts says,

“Go ask Shebna, the palace administrator,¹⁶ ‘Who are you that you’ve hewn out a monumental tomb for yourself here high in the rock?¹⁷⁻¹⁹ 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.

²⁰⁻²¹I’ll put your robe on my servant Eliakim son of 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. ²²I’ll hang on his shoulder the key to David’s house. When he opens, no one will shut; when he shuts, nobody will open. ²³I’ll drive him like a stake in solid ground. He’ll become famous,²⁴ and they’ll place on him the prestige of his family, from offspring and issue to the least items of bowls and jars. ²⁵But then the peg driven in solid ground will break off, and the load hanging on it will fall to the ground. I, the LORD, 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.

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

⁴But now be disgraced, Sidon,
 because the fortress by the sea says,
 “I’m childless, without young men and virgins.”

⁵When the report reaches Egypt,
 they’ll agonize over Tyre.

⁶Pass the news on to Tarshish;
 wail, people in distant places.

⁷Is this your joyous city
 that originated in antiquity
 and colonized distant lands?

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

Is 23:1-7

⁹The LORD of Hosts planned it to dampen the pride of all beauty,
to humble the honored in the world.

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

¹¹The LORD has stretched out his hand over the sea
and shaken the kingdoms;
he has commanded to demolish Phoenicia's fortresses.

¹²He 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

¹³Look 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.

¹⁴Wail, ships of Tarshish;
the harbor you sailed to has been destroyed.

¹⁵Tyre 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."

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

Is 23:13-18

Devastation of the Earth

24:1The LORD is laying the earth waste, defacing its surface, scattering its residents. ²People and priests, servants and masters, maids and mistresses, buyers and sellers, lenders and borrowers, creditors and debtors—everyone will be affected. ³The earth will be completely despoiled because the LORD said so. ⁴The earth withers, and its people waste away, even its high-ranking ones, ⁵because they've polluted it by sinning against God's laws, statutes, and everlasting covenant. ⁶So 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

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

⁸Celebrating with tambourines has stopped;

the noise from revelers has ceased;
happiness with harps has disappeared.

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

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

Is 24:7-10

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

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

¹³That'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 the LORD.*

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

¹⁶In 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!"*

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

¹⁸the one that runs from terror
falls in 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.

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

²⁰It staggers like a drunk;
it leans like a shack

because its sins press heavily against it;
it will fall over permanently.

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

22They'll be rounded up
like prisoners in a dungeon and finally punished,

23The moon will fade,
and the sun will lose its brightness
compared to the LORD 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

25:1LORD, you're my God.

I'll honor and thank you
for doing the wonderful things you planned long ago.

2You've reduced fortified towns to rubble;
the foreigners' palaces will never be rebuilt.

3So strong people will honor you;
towns in ruthless nations will come to revere you,

4because 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

5or 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

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

9At that time, people will say, "*This is the God we've waited for to save us. He's the LORD; let's celebrate and be glad he's done it.*" **10**His hand will rest on this mountain, and Moab will be trodden down like straw in the urine of a manure pit. **11**He'll subdue Moab like a swimmer pushes

down water. He'll end its pride and slight-of-hand. ¹²He'll bring down its impregnable fortifications and throw them on the ground.

Is 25:6-12

A Song of Praise to the LORD

26:1 At that time, they'll sing a song in Judah:

We have an impregnable city;
it's set up with secure walls and ramparts.

2Open the gates so a good nation can enter,
one that stays faithful.

3You keep steadfast minds in perfect peace
because they trust in you.

4Trust in the LORD forever
because in him we have an everlasting Rock.

5He brings down low the ones that live up high
in their "safe city";
he throws it to the ground.

6The poor and helpless trample it.

Is 26:1-6

7The road for the righteous is not rough;
Righteous One, level out our path.

8We conform our way to your judgments, LORD;
with all our heart we want to honor you.

9At night I long for you;
my spirit looks for you earnestly;
when the earth experiences your judgments,
its people learn goodness.

10Even if sinners receive grace,
they don't learn goodness;
they keep dealing unjustly in an unjust land
and don't sense the LORD's majesty.

Is 26:7-10

11LORD, 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.

12You'll establish peace for us,
since you're the One that *actually* does for us

everything we *try to* do.

¹³Other lords have ruled us before,
but you're the only one we acknowledge.

¹⁴Those 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.

¹⁵You've made this nation great
and extended its borders; we honor you.

Is 26:11-15

¹⁶We looked to you in distress,
able only to whisper a prayer,
because you were disciplining us.

¹⁷Like a pregnant woman at delivery time,
she writhes and cries out in labor pains;
that's how we were before you, LORD.

¹⁸We've been pregnant, writhing in labor,
but nothing came of it;
we couldn't save the world
or bring life into it.

¹⁹But *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

²⁰Go home, my people,
and lock the doors behind you;
hide for a while
till the *LORD*'s anger has run its course.

²¹The *LORD* 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

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

²Then,

"There'll be a *delightful vineyard to sing about!*

³*I, the LORD, will be its keeper;
I'll water it constantly
and guard it day and night so no one harms it.*

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

Is 27:1-5

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

⁷*Has the LORD struck Israel
the way he struck Israel's strikers?
Has he slain Israel
the way he slew Israel's slayers?*

⁸*No, he contended with Israel by banishing them,
expelling them with his fierce east wind.*

⁹*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.*

¹⁰*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.*

¹¹*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

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

Is 27:12-13

An Oracle About Samaria

28:1*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.**

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

³**The proud crown of Ephraim's drunks** will get tramped on;

⁴**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

⁵At a later time, the LORD of Hosts will finally become Israel's crown *instead*,
 a beautiful diadem for his remnant people.

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

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

⁸Their tables are covered with vomit;
 there's filth everywhere.

Is 28:5-8

⁹Yet they say, "Who's the *LORD* 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?"

¹⁰They say that because *he tells them* over and over,
 "**Precept on precept,
 line on line;
 here a little, there a little.**"

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

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

¹³So the LORD 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

14 So listen to the LORD’s message,
you scoffing rulers in Jerusalem:
15 “*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.’”*

16 But the Lord GOD 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 *I’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 The LORD 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 God of hosts
 about *his* decree to destroy the whole region. **Is 28:19-22**

23Listen to my question.
24When it's planting time,
 does a farmer keep on plowing,
 keep breaking up ground and harrowing it?
25Doesn't he smooth it out,
 sow dill and scatter cummin,
 plant wheat in rows,
 and broadcast barley and rye in their plots
26because 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.
28Does he crush grain for bread?
No, he doesn't keep threshing it over and over;
 the cart wheel and horses' *hooves* would ruin it.
29That goes for the LORD of Hosts too,
 who made his advice wonderful
 and his wisdom great. **Is 28:23-29**

An Oracle About Jerusalem

29:1 *"Misfortune awaits you, Ariel, city where David camped!
 Year after year, you observe the festivals on schedule.*
2Yet I'll bring disaster on you, Ariel;
 you'll lament and mourn;
 you'll be to me what Ariel means [blood-covered altar].
3I'll camp against you all the way around
 and set up siege works and battle towers.
4You'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**

5"But suddenly your many enemies
 will be like fine dust blown away,

*ruthless attackers like chaff
gone with a gust of wind.*

6 *The LORD of Hosts will visit you
with thunder, earthquake, and loud noise,
with whirlwind, storm, and consuming fire.*

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

8 *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

9 *But you linger and wait and blind yourselves.
You're drunk, but not with wine;
you're staggering, but not from alcohol;*

10 *that's because the LORD has poured a sleeping spirit over you;
he's shut your eyes, prophets,
and covered your heads, seers.*

11-12 *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

13 *So the LORD 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.*

14 *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**

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

16 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**

17 Isn't it just a little while
 till Lebanon becomes a fertile field
 and the fertile field becomes a forest?
18 At that time, the deaf will hear the message from the scroll;
 the blind will see through the gloom and darkness;
19 the humble will have fresh happiness in the LORD;
 the needy will celebrate in the Holy One of Israel.
20 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 the LORD that redeemed Abraham says of Jacob's house,
 "They won't feel 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 The LORD 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,
⁷*to Egypt, "Harmless Rahab [Dragon]," as I describe it.*

Is 30:6-7

Warning to Judah

⁸*Go write this on a scroll
so it can serve as a lasting testimony.*
⁹*This is a rebellious nation,
unfaithful children that refuse to hear the LORD's instruction,*
¹⁰*that say to seers, "Don't see visions,"
that tell prophets, "Don't prophesy what's true.
Say pleasant things;
prophesy illusions.*
¹¹*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**

¹²*This is what the Holy One of Israel says,
"Since you've rejected that message
and relied on oppression and perversion,*
¹³*your sin is like a bulge in a wall
that's ready to collapse.*
¹⁴*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 the LORD’s People

15This is what the Lord GOD, 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.

16*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!

17*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

18The LORD 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**

19People 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!”*

23Then 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 *of your enemies* 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 the LORD sets his people’s fractures and heals the bruises he’s inflicted on them.

Is 30:19-26

27The LORD will come from a remote place
with burning anger and thick smoke.

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

²⁸his 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.

²⁹But 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 the LORD, the Rock of Israel. ³⁰He will make his majestic voice heard and bring down his arm in lightning, cloudbursts, and downpours with hailstones. ³¹The Assyrians will panic when they hear him strike with his rod. ³²Every 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. ³³Topheth has long been ready, prepared for the Assyrian king. *The LORD* 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

31:¹Misfortune 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 the LORD!

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

³Egyptians are people, not God;
their horses are flesh, not spirit.
So the LORD 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

⁴The LORD says to me,
“*Like a young lion growls over its prey
and shepherds' shouts don't scare it away,
I'll 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

⁶Come 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.*

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

Is 31:6-9

Israel's Ultimate Deliverance

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

²Each 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.

³Then the seeing will perceive;
the hearing will listen.

⁴The rash will use good judgment;
stuttering tongues will speak fluently.

Is 32:1-4

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

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

⁸But the truly noble make noble plans
and stick with them.

Is 32:5-8

⁹Get up, **women of leisure;**
listen, complacent daughters.

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

11Tremble, **women of leisure;**
 shudder, **complacent daughters.**

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

Is 32:9-11

12Beat your breasts for pleasant fields and fruitful vines,
13for joyful houses and happy towns,
 for my people's land, where thorns and thistles grow;

14because 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;

15till 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

16Then justice will thrive in the countryside;
 goodness will grow in the fertile field.

17Goodness will lead to peace
 and bring extended calm and confidence.

18Then my people will live undisturbed
 in safe houses and peaceful retreats.

19Though hail flattens the forest
 and the city's leveled,

20you'll still be blessed who sow near water,
 who let livestock and donkeys range free.

Is 32:16-20

An Oracle About Assyria

33:1Misfortune 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.

²LORD, be gracious to us; we've waited for you;
 be our strength each morning,
 our deliverer when trouble comes.

³Let people run from the turmoil you bring;
 let nations scatter when you threaten.

⁴Gather spoil like caterpillars gather
 and locusts strip the countryside.

⁵Honor the LORD because he lives on high;
 he's filled Zion with justice and goodness.

⁶Later he'll provide you stability,
 a wealth of salvation, knowledge, and wisdom;
 respect for him will be *your* treasure.

Is 33:1-6

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

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

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

¹⁰"So now *I'll stand up and be honored*," the LORD says,

¹¹"*You've conceived chaff and given birth to stubble*;
my breath will consume you like a flame.

¹²*I'll burn the nations to lime*
and destroy cut thorns with fire. **Is 33:7-12**

¹³*You that are far off, pay attention to what I've done;*
you that are near, acknowledge my power."

¹⁴Sinners in Zion have panicked; the godless tremble,
"Who among us can live in this consuming fire
and continual burning?"

¹⁵You 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—
16you'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

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

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

19You won't see *those* fierce people anymore
 whose language nobody could understand. Is 33:17-19

20Look 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.

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

22because the LORD 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.

24You 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

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

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

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

⁴The 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.*

⁷*Wild 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

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

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

¹⁰It 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.

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

God will stretch out a measuring line over it for desolation,
hold a plumb line on it for chaos.

Is 34:8-11

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

¹³Thorns 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.
¹⁴Desert animals will mix with hyenas;
 hairy goats will bleat to one another;
 the night monster [Lilith] will settle down to rest there.

¹⁵Owls 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

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

¹⁷He has surveyed the land
 and deeded it over to them forever. Is 34:16-17

Joy for the Redeemed

35:¹⁻²The 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 the LORD,
 the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen feeble hands;
 steady weak knees.

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

⁵He'll open the eyes of the blind
 and unplug the ears of the deaf. Is 35:1-5

⁶The 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.

⁷Parched 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.

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

⁹Lions 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.

¹⁰The ones the LORD 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. ²He 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. ³Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace administrator; Shebna, the court secretary; and Joah son of Asaph, the royal historian, went out to meet them.

⁴The Rabshakeh said,

"Tell Hezekiah the great king of Assyria says, 'What's this confidence you claim to have? ⁵Empty talk can't substitute for military strategy and power. Who are you depending on when you rebel against me? ⁶Are 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. ⁷If you tell me you're trusting in the LORD 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? ⁸Come on, make a deal with my master: I'll give you 2,000 horses if you can put riders on them. ⁹Can you drive off even the least of my master's contingents even with the help of Egypt's chariots and cavalry? ¹⁰Anyway, haven't I actually come up at the LORD's behest to destroy this place? He's told me to attack this land and destroy it. '"

Is 36:1-10

¹¹Then 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."

¹²But 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

13 “Listen to what the great king of Assyria says, **14** ‘Don’t let Hezekiah deceive you; he can’t deliver you. **15** Don’t let him make you trust in the LORD, “The LORD will deliver us. This city won’t be delivered to the king of Assyria.” **16** 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, **17** till I come and take you away to a land like yours, a land with grain and new wine, bread and vineyards. **18** Don’t let Hezekiah mislead you. Have any of the nations’ gods delivered their lands from the king of Assyria? **19** Where are the gods of Hamath, Arpad, and Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria from me? **20** Will the LORD deliver Jerusalem from me?’”

21 But they didn’t answer him; the king told them not to. **22** 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 the LORD 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 the LORD 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

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

¹⁶“*LORD 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, LORD 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

²¹Then Isaiah sent word to Hezekiah,

“*The LORD 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. ³¹The surviving remnant of the siege in Judah will again take root down and bear fruit up. ³²A remnant will go out of Jerusalem, survivors from Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will make it happen.”*

³³*The LORD 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. ³⁴He'll go back home the way he came. ³⁵I'll save this city for my sake and my servant David.”*

³⁶*The angel of the LORD 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. ³⁷So Sennacherib went home to live in Nineveh. ³⁸As 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

^{38:1}*Around that time, Hezekiah got deathly ill, and Isaiah came to tell him, “The LORD says to set your house in order; you're going to die.”*

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

⁴*Then a message from the LORD came to Isaiah:*

⁵*“Go back and tell Hezekiah that the LORD God of your ancestor David says, 'I've heard your prayer and seen your tears. I'll give you 15 more years to*

live⁶ and deliver you and this city from the king of Assyria. ⁷This is the sign that I'll do what I've said: ⁸I'll make the shadow on Ahaz's stairway go back up 10 steps. ⁹”
So it went back up 10 steps. Is 38:1-8

**⁹A Writing by Hezekiah, King of Judah,
After His Illness and Recovery**

- ¹⁰***“In the prime of life,
I was headed for the gates of Sheol,
deprived of the rest of my life.*
- ¹¹***I wouldn't see the LORD again while I was alive
or people in this world.*
- ¹²***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, LORD, 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***LORD, 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 *The LORD 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 the LORD's Temple?" Is 38:15-22

Envoy from Babylon

39:1 Soon after this, Merodach-baladan son of 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 treasuries. 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 the LORD 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 the LORD
double for its sins." Is 40:1-2

3 A voice is calling,
"Build a road for the LORD 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 the LORD will come;
everyone will see it together.”*

The LORD 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 the LORD blows on them;
people are like that.*

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

Is 40:6-8

9*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!”*

10*He’ll come with power
to rule with his strong arm;
he’ll bring his reward with him.*

11*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

12*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?*

13*Who has directed the LORD’s Spirit
or instructed him as his advisor?*

14*Who did he consult for enlightenment?
Who taught him what’s good?*

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

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

¹⁷All the nations amount to nothing in front of him;
they're of no consequence compared to him.

Is 40:12-17

¹⁸Who can we compare God to?
What's he like?

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

²⁰People 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

²¹Haven't you heard? Don't you know?

Didn't anybody tell you at the beginning of *the earth* that
²²the 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.

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

²⁴They'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.

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

²⁶Look 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

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

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

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

Is 40:27-29

30Even youths get weary;
young men collapse exhausted;

31but those who trust in the LORD
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.

2Who 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;

3who chases them away and passes along safely
on paths he hasn't walked before?

4Who does such momentous deeds
generation after generation from the beginning till now?
I, the LORD, 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.

6Each 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,
⁹you 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 the LORD 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," the LORD 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 the LORD
 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, the LORD, 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,” the LORD 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 the LORD

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.

3 *He won’t break a bruised reed*
or put out a flickering wick;
he’ll faithfully render justice.

4 *He won’t falter or lose heart;*
he’ll establish justice on earth;
distant lands will rely on his instruction.” Is 42:1-4

5 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—

6 “*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

7 *to open the eyes of the blind,*
to free prisoners from dungeons
and those living in darkness from prison.

8 *I’m Yahveh; that’s my name.*
I won’t share my honor with anyone else

or my praise with carved images.
⁹*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 the LORD

10 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!*

¹¹Let the desert towns join the chorus,
the villages where Kedar lives;
let the people of Sela sing for joy
and shout from the mountaintops.

¹²Let them honor Yahveh
and declare his praise in distant lands.

¹³He 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 42:5-9

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 Yahveh'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, Yahveh 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?*

25 *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 the LORD 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!"***

2 *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;*

3 *because I'm the LORD 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

4 *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.

6 *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—

7 *everyone that wears my name,*

that I've created for my honor.'

Is 43:4-7

8 *Bring out the blind, though they have eyes,*

and the deaf, though they have ears.

9 *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," the LORD 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 the LORD;*

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," the LORD 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

The LORD's Promised Victory

14 *This is what the LORD 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 the LORD 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.*

5 *This one will say, "I belong to the LORD";
that one will wear Jacob's name;
others will write on their hand, "Belonging to the LORD,"
and name Israel's God with honor. "*

Is 44:1-5

The Folly of Idols

6 *This is what the King of Israel says,
its Redeemer, the LORD of Hosts,
'I'm the first and last;
there's no God but me.*

7 *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.*

8 *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

⁹Those 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. ¹⁰Who but fools make their own gods and then worship them? ¹¹The craftsmen are mere mortals. They'll all gather with the worshipers, take their stand, and go down in terror and infamy.

¹²A 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. ¹³Then 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. ¹⁴He cuts down a cedar, takes a cypress or oak, and plants a fir tree in the woods, and the rain makes it grow. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶It 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. ¹⁷He carves the other half into an image, his god. He falls down to it, worships it, and prays to it, "Deliver me, my god."

Is 44:9-17

¹⁸They don't understand because *God* has glazed over their eyes so they can't see, and closed their minds so they can't think. ¹⁹The 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!"*

²⁰He 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

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

²²*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."*

²³Shout for joy, sky, because the LORD made you!

Make a joyful sound, depths of the earth.

Break into singing, mountains, forest, and every tree in them;
the LORD has redeemed Jacob and taken pride in Israel.

Is 44:18-23

²⁴This is what the LORD 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?"*

²⁵*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*

26 *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!*

27 *I’m the One that tells the deep ocean to dry up
 and its currents to be dry.*

28 *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, the LORD’s Chosen One

45:1 *This is what the LORD 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,
 the LORD 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 the LORD; 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 the LORD; there’s no other,

7 *the LORD that creates light and makes darkness,
 that sends peace and brings catastrophe—
 I’m the LORD 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 the LORD 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 The LORD, 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

The LORD, the Only Savior

14 The LORD 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 The LORD will deliver Israel permanently;
Israel won’t ever be put to shame.

Is 45:14-17

18 The LORD 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 the LORD; 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, the LORD?
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 the LORD.'
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 the LORD.

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.

²The 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,
⁴till 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?
⁶Those 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.
⁷They 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

⁸“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.

¹⁰I 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.'

¹¹I'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

¹²“Listen to me, stubborn people
who are so far from being good;
¹³I'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

47:1 “Come sit in the dirt,
 virgin daughter of Babylon.
 Sit on the ground without a throne;
 you won't be treated honorably anymore.
2 *Grind meal with heavy millstones;*
 take off your veil, strip off your skirt,
 uncover your legs and cross the rivers.
3 *Your nakedness will show;*
 your shame will be exposed;
 in my revenge I won't spare you or anybody else.” Is 47:1-3

4 Our Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel;
 Yahveh of Hosts is his name.
5 “*Sit silently in the dark,*
 daughter of Babylon;
 you won't be called
 the queen of kingdoms anymore.
6 *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.
7 *Yet you said, 'I'll be queen forever';*
 you were thoughtless about these things
 and didn't consider the consequences. Is 47:4-7

8 “*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.'
9 *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

- 10** “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.’
11 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

- 12** “Stick with your spells and sorceries
 that you’ve labored under since you were young;
 maybe you can scare somebody.

- 13** 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 the LORD and invoke Israel’s God,
 but not sincerely and rightly,

- 2** that call yourself The Holy City
 and depend on the LORD 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 God and his Spirit have sent me with that message.

Is 48:12-16

¹⁷This is what the LORD says,
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

*“I’m the LORD your God
that teaches you how to 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:
the LORD 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,” the LORD says.* **Is 48:20-22**

The Servant of the LORD

49:1Listen, far off lands;
pay attention, distant nations.

The LORD called me before I was born;
he named me inside my mother’s body.

²He 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.

³He told me, “*You’re my servant, Israel;
I’ll demonstrate my glory in you.*”

⁴But I replied, “*I haven’t really accomplished anything;
I’ve just worn myself out for nothing;
yet surely my just due is in the LORD’s hands;
I’ll have to trust him for my reward.*”

Is 49:1-4

⁵The LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant
and bring Jacob back to him

(because the LORD values me and strengthens me):

6 “*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.”*

7 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 the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel that has chosen you.*” **Is 49:5-7**

The Restoration of Israel Promised

8 The LORD 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,
9 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!
The LORD will comfort his people
and shown mercy to his suffering ones. **Is 49:10-13**

¹⁴Yet Zion says, “*The LORD has abandoned me; he’s forgotten about me.*”

¹⁵But *the LORD* 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,” the LORD 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 GOD 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 the LORD;

the ones that trust me won’t be disappointed. **Is 49:22-23**

²⁴Can anybody steal prey back from a warrior
or rescue captives from a tyrant?

²⁵But the LORD 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 the LORD, your Savior,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.*

Is 49:24-26

Israel's Sin and the Servant's Obedience

^{50:1}The LORD 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

⁴The Lord GOD has given me a disciple's tongue

so I can comfort the weary with his message;

he wakes me up morning after morning

to help me understand his will.

⁵He's cleaned out my ears,

and I haven't pulled away.

⁶I'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 spit on.

⁷He helps me so I'm not disgraced;

I set my face like flint

and know I won't feel ashamed.

Is 50:4-7

- ⁸The 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!
- ⁹The Lord helps me;
 who can condemn me?
 Adversaries will wear out like old, moth-eaten clothes.
- ¹⁰Who among you respects the LORD,
 obeys his servant,
 and *still* lives in the dark?
 Trust the LORD and rely on him.
- ¹¹You 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 the LORD,
 the Rock you were hewn from,
 the quarry you came from.
- ²Look 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.”
- ³Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion again
 and have mercy on its desolate places;
 he'll make its wilderness like Eden,
 its desert like the LORD's orchard.
 Joy and happiness will be there,
 thanksgiving and songs.

Is 51:1-3

⁴“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.

⁵My 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.

⁶*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

⁷*Listen, you that know goodness
 and have my Law in your heart;
 don't worry about criticism
 or be intimidated by scorn;
⁸moths 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."*

⁹*Wake up, wake up, show your strength, arm of the LORD;
 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 the LORD 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?
¹³Why forget the LORD 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.)*

*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 the LORD's hand
the cup of his anger,
that drank to the dregs the chalice
that made you stagger.

¹⁸Out 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 the LORD's anger, your God's rebuke

Is 51:17-20

21 So listen to this, oppressed people,
drunk but not with wine:

²²this is what your Lord says, the LORD 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-**

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 the LORD 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**

7 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!”

8 Listen! Your watchmen are happy and singing;
 they can see that the LORD is restoring Zion.

9 Break out in joyful song together,
 you laid-waste places in Jerusalem,
 because the LORD has comforted his people;
 he's redeemed Jerusalem.

10 He's bared his holy arm
 so the nations can witness the deliverance he's bringing.

11 Leave, leave there; don't hang onto anything defiled;
 purify yourselves, you that bring back the LORD's sacred objects.

12 You won't go out quickly like fleeing refugees;
 the LORD 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)

13 My servant will succeed;

he'll be looked up to and highly honored.

¹⁴But, even as many were astonished at you, *my people*,
so his *astonishing* appearance was marred beyond human resemblance,
his form *mutilated* beyond recognition.

¹⁵He'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

53:1Who has believed our message?

Who has the *LORD* shown his arm to?
He grew up before *the LORD* like a tender sprout,
like a shoot out of parched ground.

²He wasn't particularly handsome or noble
to draw our attention to him
or have the looks that would attract us to him.

³People 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

⁴Actually though, he was shouldering our weaknesses
and carrying our pains,
but we considered him
someone God struck and made suffer.

⁵But 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.

⁶We've all wandered off like sheep
and turned to our own way;
but the *LORD* laid on him the sinfulness of us all.

Is 53:4-6

⁷He 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.

⁸He 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?

⁹They 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**

¹⁰But it was the LORD'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 the LORD will accomplish his good pleasure in him.

¹¹He'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.

¹²So 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,”
the LORD 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.

³You'll spread out left and right;
your descendants will live in the nations
and resettle 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*The LORD 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,"*

the LORD 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,"*

the LORD says who has mercy for you.

Is 54:9-10

¹¹*"Suffering city, storm-tossed and uncomfoted,
I'll rebuild you with stones set in antimony
and lay your foundations in lapis lazuli.*

¹²*I'll make your battlements out of rubies,
your gates out of carbuncles,
your entire wall out of precious stones.*

¹³*All your descendants will be the LORD's disciples;
they'll prosper greatly.*

¹⁴*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.*

¹⁶*I've created blacksmiths that blow the burning coals*

*and make weapons for their purpose;
I've also created destroyers that ruin them.*

17 *No weapon designed to oppose you will achieve its aim;
you'll refute whoever brings charges against you in court.
I'll vindicate you,"* the LORD says. **Is 54:11-17**

Invitation to the LORD's Salvation

55:1 *"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.*

2 *Why spend money on what's not food,
wages on what doesn't satisfy?*

3 *Come and listen so you can live;
I'll make an everlasting covenant with you
like the faithful mercies I showed David.*

4 *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 the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
because he has honored you."* **Is 55:1-5**

6 *Look for the LORD 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 the LORD
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,"* the LORD 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 the LORD,
 an everlasting sign that won't be destroyed.”* **Is 55:10-13**

Blessings for All Nations

56:1 The LORD says,
 “*Maintain righteousness and be godly
 because my salvation's coming;
 my deliverance will arrive.*
2 *They are fortunate who do that,
 who hold onto it,
 who honor my Sabbath
 and don't do anything sinful.*
3 *Foreigners that join themselves to the LORD shouldn't say,
 ‘He'll surely make a difference between me and his people’;
 eunuchs shouldn't say, ‘I'm a dead tree.’”*
4 The LORD says,
 “*For eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths holy,
 choose to do what pleases me,
 and keep my covenant—
 5 I'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—
 7 I'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 GOD 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

57:1Good people perish and nobody notices;
 the devout disappear without anyone realizing it,
because God takes good people out of harm's way

2They 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?
⁷You've committed adultery on every high mountain
 and gone up there to offer sacrifice to your idols.
⁸You'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**
- ⁹You've gone to Molech with olive oil
 and lots of perfume;
 you've sent your messengers far and wide,
 even to Sheol.
- ¹⁰You'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?
¹²I'll tell everybody about your so-called good deeds,
 but they won't do you any good.
¹³When 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

- ¹⁴God says,
 "Fix the road; rebuild it;
 get rid of every obstacle to my people."
¹⁵This 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.
¹⁶I 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," the LORD 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 the LORD?*
- 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 ties that binds people?

Is 58:4-6

7Isn'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?*

8Then your light will break forth like the dawn;

your wounds will heal quickly.

*Your good reputation will precede you;
the glory of the LORD will have your back.*

9You'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—

10then you'll be a light shining in the dark;

the gloom around you will turn to noonday light.

Is 58:7-10

11The LORD will always guide you,

quench your thirst,

and restore your strength;

he'll make you like an irrigated garden,

like a year-round spring.

12Your 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 the LORD's day by what you do that day,

step aside from your own pursuits

and seeking your own pleasure and talking idly—

14then you'll be delighting in the LORD.

He'll give you honor on the earth

and satisfy you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob.”

The LORD has spoken.

Is 58:13-14

Warnings Against Sin

59:1 It's not that the LORD'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.

7 You hurry to do harm,
run to shed blood,
and think sinful things;
destruction lies scattered along your highways.

8 You don't know any road that leads to peace;
you give the wrong directions;
whoever follows them gets lost.

Is 59:5-8

9 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.

10 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.

11 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

¹²You've multiplied your sins right in *God's* face;

they testify against you.

You know you're sinful;

¹³you transgress and deny the LORD

and turn your backs on him.

You advocate oppression and rebellion,

conceive and tell lies from the heart.

¹⁴The courts oppose justice;

it's nowhere near;

truth stumbles in the streets;

honesty is illegal.

^{15a}There is no truth;

those who turn from sin become victims.

Is 59:12-15a

^{15b-16}The LORD 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.

¹⁷He 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.

¹⁸He'll repay his adversaries according to their deeds,

recompense his enemies with his anger,

and carry out retribution to the ends of the earth.

¹⁹So they'll fear the LORD 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.

²⁰"*A redeemer will come to Zion,*

to those who turn from sin in Jacob," the LORD says. **Is 59:15b-20**

²¹"*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

60:1 “Arise, shine; your light has come;
the glory of the LORD has risen on you.

2 Darkness will cover the earth;
thick blackness will blanket the nations;
but the LORD will shine on you;
his glory will appear on you.

3 Nations will come to your light,
kings to the brightness of your rising.

Is 60:1-3

4 “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.

5 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.

6 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 the LORD.

7 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.

8 Who are these that fly like a cloud,
like pigeons to their windows?

Is 60:4-8

9 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 the LORD your God,
for the Holy One of Israel,
because he’s honored you.

Is 60:9

10 “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.

11 *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.*

12 *Nations that won't serve you will perish.*

13 *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.*

14 *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 the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*

Is 60:10-14

15 *"Whereas you've been hated, shunned, and abandoned,
I'll make you something to be proud of forever,
a joy for endless generations.*

16 *You'll nurse on the milk of nations, breasts of kings;
you'll know that I'm the LORD, your Savior,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.*

17 *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 the LORD 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 the LORD 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, the LORD, will hurry it along when the time comes.” **Is 60:18-22**

The Year of the LORD’s Favor

61:1*The Spirit of the Lord GOD 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,

²*to announce that this is*

the year the LORD shows blessing,

the day he sets things right,

to comfort anyone that’s grieving,

³*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

the LORD has planted to demonstrate his glory.

Is 61:1-3

⁴*Then they’ll rebuild the ancient ruins,*

set back up what was torn down,

repair destroyed towns deserted for generations.

⁵*Foreigners will pasture your flocks,*

do your farming, and tend your vineyards.

⁶*But you’ll be the LORD’s priests;*

people will speak of you as his ministers.

You’ll feed on the wealth of nations

and take pride in their prosperity.

⁷*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.

⁸*“I, the LORD, love justice*

and despise short-changing in burnt offering;

I’ll make an everlasting contract with you

and faithfully pay you for your work.

⁹*Then the nations will honor your offspring worldwide;*

everyone will recognize you as the offspring the LORD blessed."

Is 61:4-9

10I'm really happy in the LORD;
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.

11As the ground produces seeds
and a garden makes sprouts grow,
so the Lord GOD makes goodness and praise
spring up for all the world to see.

Is 61:10-11

Isaiah's Prayer for Jerusalem

62:1For 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;
2so the nations can witness your goodness
and kings *can gaze at* your glory.

The LORD himself will give you a new name.

3You'll be a beautiful crown in his hand,
a royal diadem he holds up high.

4You 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*.

5Like 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

6I've stationed watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem,
not to be silent day or night,
but to remember you to the LORD

7till he makes you something worth praising in the world.

8He 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.
⁹But 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**

10 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*.
11 The LORD has declared all over the world,
*“Tell Zion its salvation’s coming;
he’s bringing his reward with him.”*
12 They’ll call you The Holy People [*Ha ‘am Haggadosh*],
The LORD’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.

*“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

*“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.”*

*“He said, “They’re my people,
offspring that surely won’t betray me again;
so he saved them.”*

*“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.”*

*“But they did rebel and grieve his Holy Spirit;
so he became their enemy and opposed them.”* **Is 63:7-10**

*“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,
12that showed his power when Moses raised his right hand,
that divided the water for them to make an eternal name for himself,
13that led them through the deep sea?”*

“Like a horse in open country, they didn’t stumble;

*“14like livestock that goes down to a sheltered valley,
the Spirit of the LORD 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

*“15Look down from heaven,
from your holy house;
where are your zeal and powerful deeds?
I don’t sense the mercy
you used to have toward us.”*

16Even if Abraham would disown us
 and Israel wouldn't recognize us,
 you'd still be our Father and Redeemer.

17LORD, why let us stray from your ways
 and harden our hearts against you?
 For our sake, bring us back as your special possession.

18Your holy people had your sanctuary for a while,
 but our adversaries have tramped it down.

19We've become like a nation you never ruled,
 like people that never wore your name.

Is 63:15-19

64:1Oh that you'd open the sky and come down
 and **the mountains would quake in your presence**—

²like a flame that burns brush and boils water—
 to show yourself to your adversaries
 so they'd tremble in your presence!

3When you did awesome things we didn't expect,
 you came down and **the mountains quaked in your presence**.

4No one has ever heard of a God like you
 that acts on behalf of people that wait for him.

5You 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?

6We've all become unclean;
 our best efforts are like menstrual rags.

We wither like leaves;
 our sins blow us away like the wind.

7No 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**

8But now, LORD, you're our Father;
 we're the clay, you're the potter;
 you've made us.

9Don'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,

4 *that sit in tombs and spend the night in secret places,*

that eat pig meat

and have broth from unclean meat in their pots,

5 *that 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

6 *I’ve written it out in front of me:*

I won’t stand idly by; I’ll repay.

I’ll pay back into their laps

7 *the 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,”

the LORD 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 GOD 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 GOD 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 the LORD has blessed—
their descendants as well.*

24 *Before they call, I'll answer;
while they're speaking, I'll listen.*

25 *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,”*
the LORD says. Is 65:22-25

Judgment and Hope

66:1 The LORD says,
“Heaven is my throne; earth is my footstool;
where are you going to build me a Temple to rest in?

2 *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

3 “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.*

4*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

5*Listen to this message from the LORD,
you that respect what he says,
“Your brothers that hate you and exclude you
because you're loyal to me, have scoffed,
'Honor the LORD 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 the LORD 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 the LORD 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.*

*The LORD'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,"* the LORD says. **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,"*

*the LORD says. **Is 66:21-24***